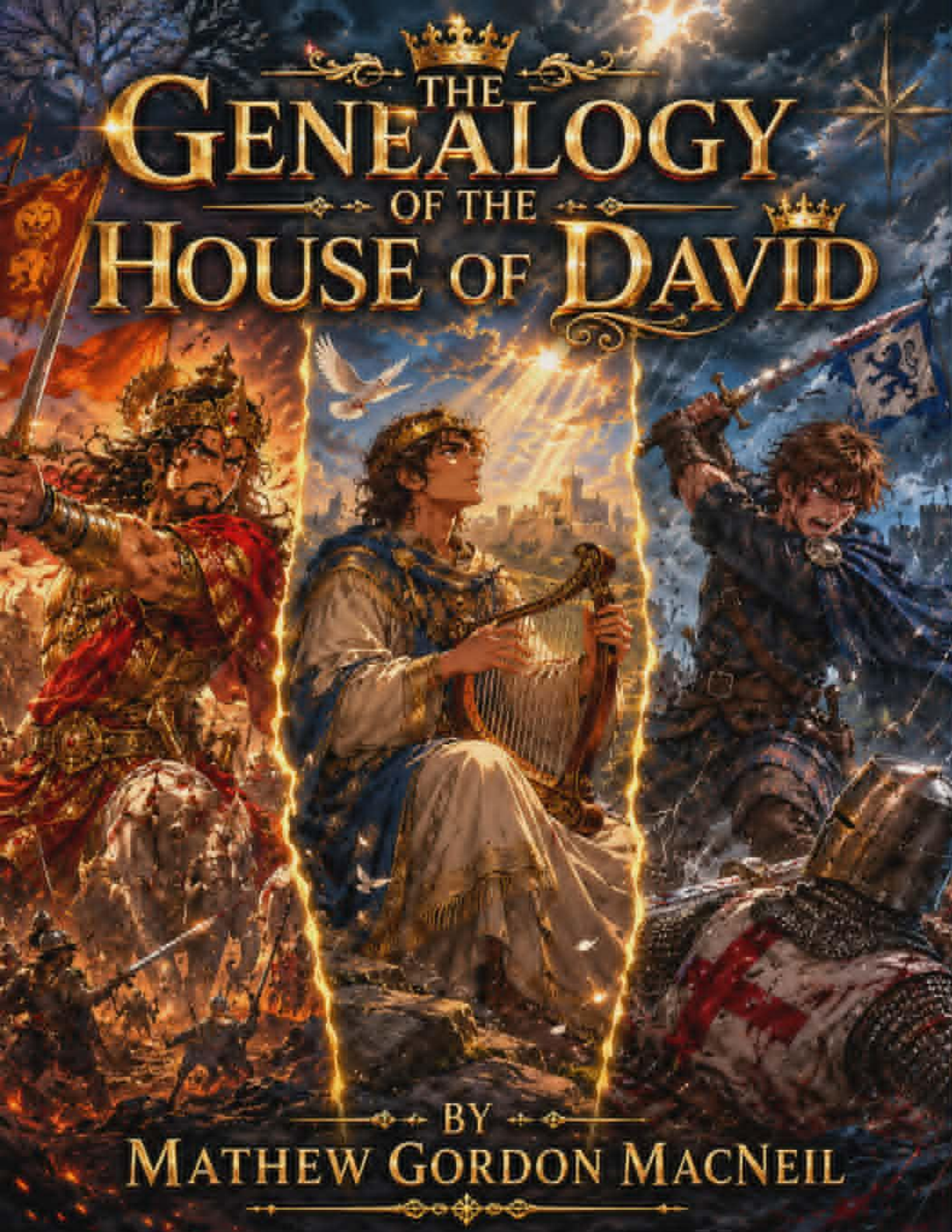
THE
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The Genealogy of the House of David

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Saniyati of Kosala

In ancient India many Kingdoms existed, all vying for power over each other, but none ever succeeding in uniting the country.

One of these Kingdoms was Kosala, located in what is today the Uttar Pradesh State of India. Founded by Ikshvaku, a legendary Indian King who lived in 3200 BC. His line, though

obscure and impossible to trace, is said to have continued down to Saniyati of Kosala, whose line can be traced with certainty.

Not much can be said of Saniyati, only that he ruled Kosala beginning in 3000 BC and that he was born twenty years prior. His wife, if indeed he was married, is unnamed.

The year his reign began he became a father to a son, Ahayanti.

Saniyati's year of death is unknown.

Ahayanti and Bhanunmati

All that is known for certain of Ahayanti's reign is that he married a distant cousin, Bhanunmati, daughter of Kartavirya, King of the Haihaya kingdom in central India, who was regarded by ancient Indians as a monster slayer and great King who was a descendant of Bharata, a younger son of King Dasharatha of Kosala, who reigned a hundred years before their time.

With Bhanunmati, Ahayanti had one known son, Sarvabhauma, born in 2970 BC.

It is unknown when Ahayanti or his wife died.

Sarvabhauma and Sunanda

Sarvabhauma married late in life, sometime around 2935 BC to a distant cousin Sunanda who was also a descendant of Bharata. In 2930 BC the couple welcomed their only known child, a son named Jayasena.

The death dates of this couple, like their parents, is unknown.

Jayasena and Susrava

Much like his father Jayasena ruled alone for much of his reign, but in 2892 BC he married Susrava, a descendant of Bharata and in 2890 BC they had a son, Avachina.

Their death dates are unknown.

Avachina and Marvyada

Much like his ancestors before him, nothing can be said with certainty regarding Avachina's reign, not even when he became King of Kosala.

He married a relative of his mother, Marvyada, in 2855 BC, having their only child, Arihan, five years later.

He reigned many years more, dying at an unknown time and place.

Arihan and Angi

Arihan married a cousin, Angi, descendant of Bharata and together had a son, Mahabhauma, in 2811 BC.

He died in Kosala in 2876 BC.

Mahabhauma and Suyaina

Mahabhauma was well trained by his father by the time he came to the throne. By the time he became King of Kosala he was a parent himself, having a son named Auytanayi (born in 2880 BC) with his wife, Suyaina, yet another descendant of Bharata.

It is unknown why the House of Saniyati (for lack of a proper name for this dynasty) married into Bharata's line so much, but whatever their reasons it is clear that they valued his bloodline highly and sought out his descendants in exclusion to others.

Mahabhauma's and Suyaina's date of death is uncertain.

Auytanayi

Auytanayi did not marry as King, but did have many mistresses and with one of them had a son, Akrohana in 2762 BC, the first of the House of Saniyati to be born to a woman not of Bharata's blood.

His death date is unknown.

Akrohana and Kesa

While his father never took to wife a daughter of Bharata, Akrohana returned to this tradition when he wed Kesa in 2742 BC. In 2739 BC she gave birth to their only child, a son, Devatihi.

Akrohana ruled Kosala until his death in 2723 BC.

Devatihi and Maryada

Coming to the throne when still young, Devatihi ruled well in spite of his lack of worldly knowledge. He married Maryada, a descendant of Bharata, in 2713 BC. Three years later she gave birth to their son, Arihan.

Devatihi, though he was a good King, did not please everyone. Understanding to the poor who could not pay their taxes, he irked some of his nobles who believed a King needed to rule with an iron fist, and this annoyance soon turned to anger.

While traveling from the royal palace to a nearby village to

visit relatives Devatihi was killed by assassins in 2700 BC, stabbed twice in the heart.

Arihan II and Sudeva

A boy of ten when he came to the throne following his father's murder, Arihan's mother ruled Kosala as regnant until he came of age at eighteen.

Arihan, taking lessons from his father's death, ruled Kosala with deadly determination. He quashed any who even appeared to be rebellious, giving little thought to his nobles and executed many. But, like his father, he was generous to the poor and those in need, but was always sure to remind them he was King, not their friend, something he felt his father failed to do and it led to his assassination.

In 2686 BC Arihan married Sudeva, a descendant of Bharata, and by her had two sons, Riksha in 2684 BC and Rama, born 2680 BC.

Arihan II ruled until his death, in his bed, in 2650 BC, passing away peacefully.

Riksha and Jwala

As was the case in many dynasties, the sons of Arihan II fought for the throne after their father's death. Most nobles supported Riksha as the eldest, but some, mainly men who came from minor noble families, favored Rama for the Crown.

From 2650 to 2643 BC Civil War raged in Kosala, leaving over forty thousand dead when all was said and done. Rama's side lost and Riksha showed none mercy, executing his younger brother alongside all of his followers.

Shortly after his victory Riksha married Jwala, daughter of one of his leading Generals, Takshaka, who was a descendant of Rama, the elder brother of Bharata and King of Kosala.

With Jwala, Riksha had one son, Matinara, born in 2648 BC.

Riksha ruled Kosala until his death by poisoning in 2630 BC. Who his killer was is unknown.

Matinara and Saraswati

Matinara's life and reign is murky, like most of his family for much of their history. He married a noblewoman named Saraswati of Kosala, but what family she came from isn't known. The only certainty is that she did not come from the House of Rama or the House of Bharata.

In 2620 BC Saraswati gave birth to their son Tansu.

Neither of their death dates are known.

Tansu and Kalini

Tansu was King by 2600 BC as he married in this year Kalini, a Kosalan noblewoman of uncertain origins. Like Saraswati, the only known fact of her is she was not a descendant of Rama or his younger brother.

In 2599 BC Kalini gave birth to their only child, Llina.

When they died is unknown.

Llina and Rathantari

By 2583 BC Llina was on Kosala's throne and he was the father of Dushmantha by Rathantari, a concubine.

He died in 2580 BC.

Dushmantha and Sakuntala

Dushmantha, when he came of age in 2565 BC, returned to the custom of marrying women of the House of Bharata, taking to wife Sakuntala, daughter of Viswamitra and Menaka, both descended from the Prince.

In 2564 BC Sakuntala gave birth to their only child, a son they named Bharata in honour of their shared ancestor.

It is unknown when Dushmantha or Sakuntala died.

Bharata and Sunada

Bharata would marry Sunada of the House of Bharata as King

late in his life in 2520 BC. By her he had a son, Bhunmanyu, in 2518 BC.

He died in 2498 BC.

Bhunmanyu and Vijaya

Becoming King in 2498 BC Bhunmanyu's reign was peaceful and he ruled his people with the help of the nobles, the ones of his day content to be led by an easy going man.

In the same year as his coronation he married Vijaya of House Bharata and with her had two sons:

Suhotra, born 2497 BC.

Arjuna, born 2490 BC.

His rule lasted into 2455 BC when he died of natural causes, a much beloved King.

Suhotra and Suvarna

As a young man Suhotra was married to Suvarna of Ayodha. Her father, Ikshvaku, was Governor of the city and a distant cousin of the royal family (yes, he was a descendant of Bharata).

When his father died Suhotra was already a parent himself to three sons, the youngest of which, Hasti, was born in the same year as his grandfather's death.

The nobles feared that Suhotra and Arjuna, much like Riksha and Rama, would battle one another for the throne, but much to their relief there was no tension between them. Arjuna accepted his elder sibling's right to the throne and was appointed his Chief Adviser, serving in this post for thirty years until his death.

Suhotra reigned as King until 2405 BC when he died and was succeeded by his eldest son, Arihan.

Hasti

The youngest of his father's children, Hasti knew there was no future for him in Kosala unless he wished to serve his brothers. With this in mind he decided to make his own way

in the world, he left Kosala and headed into the Middle East.

He entered Sumeria, what is today Iraq, in about 2420 BC, his road leading him to the City of Akkad where he became a guard.

It was a strange sight, a royal Prince becoming a guard of a foreign State, but strange as it may be Hasti lived life his own way.

He married an Akkadian woman, in 2410 BC and had one son whom he named in his honour.

The Kosolan Prince died in 2380 BC. He never saw his homeland again.

Hasti II

Hasti II lived his entire life in Akkad and like his father became a guardsman. He married in 2390 BC the daughter of his Captain. With her he had a son in 2389 BC whom they named La'lbum.

Hasti II passed away in 2378 BC while on duty.

La'lbum and Enitum

La'lbum followed in his father's and grandfather's footsteps, joining Akkad's guards as a young man.

He married Enitum, a Priestess of Ishtar, the Goddess of Love, Beauty, Fertility and War who hailed from the city of Azupiranu.

In 2372 BC Enitum gave birth to their son, Sargon.

It is unknown when La'lbum died precisely, but it was during his son's early years as Sargon claimed to have never known him.

Sargon and Tashlultum

Sargon spent his early years on Akkad's streets, growing up around other boys his age and enjoying a few perks of being a Priestess' son. His life, however, was vastly different than the one his ancestors had known for centuries. In Akkad he was not royalty, but simply one of thousands of commoners. His

life was destined to be like theirs too, passing into the sands largely unnoticed.

In his early adulthood Sargon moved to the city of Kish, then ruled by King Ur-Zababa. The Akkadian found work with the gardener Akki who became like a second father to him, teaching him the ins and outs of his trade. Sargon soon became adept at gardening and handling grapes, and somehow these skills brought him to the attention of the King.

Ur-Zababa, impressed by the young Akkadian's knowledge of wines, his wit, and great intelligence, decided to bring him into the royal Household.

As a royal servant Sargon served well, growing close to the King and his family. The trust between them became so deep that he was eventually appointed Ur-Zababa's cupbearer.

Contrary to what one may conjure up when one hears 'cupbearer', it was not a lowly job, but one that needed great trust and confidence for the man needed to pour the King and his family their drinks, guarding them against poison.

Sargon acted as Ur-Zababa's cupbearer for a number of years, but over time he became jealous of the King's power. He wanted it, and following a dream where the Goddess Inanna appeared to him proclaiming he could take the Kingship,

Sargon began plans to overthrow Ur-Zababa.

How Sargon managed to overthrow his Lord is unknown, the records of it lost to time, but in 2334 BC, at the age of thirty eight, Sargon became King of Kish, making his wife, a noblewoman of Kish named Tashlultum, Queen.

By the time he rose to the throne Sargon was the father of several children:

Rimush.

Manishtushu.

Enheduanna.

Shu-Enlil.

Abaish-Takal.

Almost immediately after becoming King Sargon set out on a campaign of conquest, desiring to bring the whole of Sumeria under his rule.

The first city he targeted was Uruk, one of the oldest cities in the ancient Middle East, whose ruler, Lugalzagezi, put up a valiant fight but could not withstand the might of the Akkadian's army, tearing down its walls when the conquest was complete.

Next came Ur and then Lagash, conquering them both in swift

succession, blazing a path across Sumeria in a campaign unlike anything the Sumerian people had yet seen. In a few short years, from 2333 BC to 2331 BC, he managed to unite all of the city States into one Kingdom under his rule, establishing the Akkadian Empire.

And still he was not happy. He moved up into what is today notheastern Syria and southeastern Turkey, carving out more lands for himself and his heirs, eager to leave his imprint upon the world.

In all Sargon of Akkad conquered thirty four cities in his lifetime, making him the greatest conqueror in living memory.

To consolidate his power and to ensure his descendants would rule after he was gone, Sargon appointed Governors for each of the thirty four cities he took, men who were loyal only to him. Some were sons of former Kings, but far more were like Sargon himself, common men who had proven themselves by merit fit for the positions he entrusted them with.

He abolished each city's laws and replaced them with a new centralized law system so as to better govern his new realm, and he made Akkadian the official language of the Empire. He allowed people to speak their native tongues among themselves or in local festivals, but in official business Akkadian was to be spoken by all, commoner and noble alike.

This way a sense of unity could be laid down.

Lastly, Sargon established a standing army so that at anytime, if a rebellion broke out, he could quickly marshal his men and crush it. No longer would armies be called up when the need arose, now one would always be at the ready.

For his victories and his successes the King of Akkad, a very religious man, thanked the Goddesses Inanna, and the High God Anu.

Sargon of Akkad ruled his Empire until his death in 2279 BC.

Manishtushu and Shubhadranna

Once his father died, Manishtushu saw no reason to not support his brother Rimush as King. By this time he was married to Shubhadranna, an Indian woman of the Kosala Kingdom (Sargon making sure to establish contact with his ancestral homeland) whose family background is unknown, and by her had a son, Naram-Sin, born in 2290 BC.

Unlike their father, Rimush did not command the unflinching respect of the cities under his rule and so he, along with Manishtushu, went to war to reconquer Ur, Umma, Adab,

Lagash, Der, and Klan, spending several years at the task and when it was over Rimush was ruthless in his revenge. He destroyed most of the cities, slaughtering their people wholescale, giving little care for who was an actual rebel and who was loyal to him. In Adab and Zabala alone he killed fifteen thousand and seventeen hundred people.

This cruelty led to him being despised even by his own Court. In 2270 BC he was assassinated, beaten to death with cylinder seals.

Upon Rimush' death Manishtushu took the throne as his elder brother had no children of his own, and he went on to lead campaigns into foreign lands, both to distance himself from nobles who might want his head, their eyes on the Crown themselves, and to give the Empire more glory to unify it after the bloodshed of his brother's reign.

In the Persian Gulf he fought an alliance of thirty two Kings, defeating them in a great sea battle and subjecting their Kingdoms to his rule.

He invaded what is today Iran, conquering the city of Anshan, using the wealth he took from its looted treasury to rebuild the Temple of Inanna in the city of Nineveh.

Manishtushu reigned until 2255 BC when, like his brother, he met his death at the hands of people close to him, guards

specifically. Stabbed to death.

Naram-Sin and Summaramat of Elam

One can imagine what Naram-Sin must have thought coming to the throne as he did. Both his uncle and his father had died at the hands of assassins, would he be next?

At the time of his coronation he was married, his wife and Queen being Summaramat of Elam, daughter of Khita, King of Elam and his Egyptian wife. She had borne him most of his children by this time:

Shar-Kali-Sharri

Bin-Kali-sharri

Lipit-ili

Nabi-Ulmash

Ukkin-Ulmash

Enmenanna

Simat-Ulmash

Shumshani

Tutar-napshum.

Like his father Naram-Sin, in an attempt to bring support to him, went on military campaigns, this time against nomadic hill tribes in the Zagros mountains of modern day Iran. He defeated two tribal Chiefs known by name, Satuni of the Lullubi and Manium of the Magan, spreading his rule into the mountains after their deaths.

After these victories Naram-Sin returned to Sumeria where he settled down to rule, ruling for fifty six years. His success in retaining his power this long where his uncle and father failed was due to placing his many sons as Governors of vassal cities and his daughters as High Priestesses, making ruling the Akkadian Empire a truly family affair.

Near the end of his life Naram-Sin faced the Gutians, a people originally from Europe who migrated to the Middle East and were causing havoc in Sumer. He fought them relentlessly but in the end their King, Erridupizir, managed to capture the city of Nippur and Crown himself its King in 2218 BC. A few months later, heartbroken and worn down from years of rulership, Naram-Sin passed away.

Shar-Kali-Sharri and Tuta-Shar-Ibbish

When Shar-Kali-Sharri came to power the seeds were already being sown for the downfall of the House of Sargon, and one large problem emerged in 2215 BC when a revolt broke out in the city of Zabala. The King won the war, but it left the Empire damaged, allowing the Gutians, ever watching from Nippur, to take note and build up their influence.

By the time Zabala's war was over Shar-Kali-Sharri was a father. Tuta-Shar-Ibbish, his Queen, gave birth to their son Dudu in 2214 BC, and the King quickly made him his heir, not wanting other descendants of Sargon to swoop in to claim power once he was dead.

Shar-Kali-Sharri ruled the Akkadian Empire until 2193 BC, when he died, his death allowing several contenders to rise up and challenge Dudu for the throne.

Dudu of Akkad

While Dudu was the rightful heir to his father and (to many) the only true heir of Sargon, others believed he was not suited for the throne and offered up themselves for the position.

Among them was Elulmesh, King of Nippur, whose forces marched out of the City to battle the Akkadians for supremcy over Sumeria, desiring to bring Gutian domination to the entire region.

Other men such as Igigi, Imi, and Nanum, were Governors under Shar-Kali-Sharri who, while having no royal blood to speak of, meant to become a new Sargon.

Dudu, along with his loyal followers, battled the Gutians and the Governors for four bloody years, each man mentioned manging, for brief periods, to rule Akkad as its King, until Dudu removed them.

In 2189 BC the Civil War came to an end when Dudu finally defeated the last of the rebels and proclaimed himself King of Akkad, ushering in an era of peace.

The Empire, however, was no more. Former vassal cities won their independence during the Civil Wars, using the infighting to break free of their shackles. Dudu, while a good General, was no Sargon, unable to bring them back under Akkadian hegemony.

He fathered two sons during his first decade as King with an unnamed woman:

Shu-turul, born 2187 BC.

Isarum, born 2185 BC.

Dudu's reign lasted until 2168 BC when he passed away, leaving the throne to Shu-Turul.

Shu-Turul and Sedeqetelebab

Shu-Turul holds the distinction of being the last descendant of Sargon to sit on the throne of Akkad. He ruled from his father's death in 2168 BC to 2154 BC when the Gutians overthrew him in a surprise attack on the city.

Not much is known of his reign, but he survived his overthrow and went into hiding after the Gutian King Ibate took his throne. Before his overthrow, and before he became King, Shu-Turul became a parent along with his wife Sedeqetelebab, in 2170 BC to their son Arpacshed.

What became of Shu-Turul and Sedeqetelebab is unknown as they disappeared into the mists of time once the Kingdom was taken from them

Arpachshed and Rasu'aya

Arpachshad fled to the city of Ur when Akkad fell where he

married a local noblewoman, Rasu'aya, in 2154 BC at seventeen. Together they had two sons:

Kessed, born in 2153 BC.

Selah, born 2150 BC.

Arpacshed lived the rest of his life in Ur, living long enough to see one of his grandsons through Kessed rise to Kingship, dying in 2100 BC.

Kessed and Ninsun

At eighteen in 2135 BC Kessed was married to Ninsun of Uruk, a noblewoman who claimed descent from the Goddess Ninsun whom she was named after, mother of the warrior King Gilgamesh.

Kessed lived a obscure life as an Ur noble, having one son, Ur-Nammu, in 2134 BC. He died in 2110 BC, while his wife's death date is unknown.

Ur-Nammu and Watartum

The Sumeria Ur-Nammu grew up in was one dominated the Gutians. After his great grandfather was overthrown they spread their influence across the entire region, forcing every City State to acknowledge their hegemony just as the descendants of Sargon had done before them.

Ur was no exception to this and Ur-Nammu, like many, resented the Gutians for their oppression, though one wonders if his resentment also stemmed from the fact they stole his inheritance.

Others in the land were feeling the pinch more than the young Ur noble, men who served the Gutians received the worst treatment. Among these men was Utu-Hengal, Governor of Uruk.

In 2119 BC Utu-Hengal, along with allies in other cities, formed a military pact to destroy the Gutian hold on Sumeria, launching a rebellion.

Ur-Nammu, with thousands of other Sumerians, flocked to Utu-Hengal's banner. The Gutian King of the time, Trigan, assembled his warriors to put down this upstart Governor, but instead found himself in chains after Utu-Hengal crushed his army, shattering Gutian domination forever.

The two men sat down together, Utu-Hengal willing to let

Trigan live if he swore to withdraw his men from Sumeria and never return. Having little choice Trigan agreed, retreating back to Gutium in modern day Iran.

Victorious, Utu-Hengal declared himself King of Uruk and Overlord of Sumeria, naming Ur-Nammu, who had impressed him in battle, as Governor of Ur.

In the years to come Utu-Hengal came to view Ur-Nammu as his top ally, despite the age gap between them. In 2116 BC he gave Ur-Nammu his only child, a daughter named Watartum, in marriage, securing their alliance and Ur-Nammu's succession to the throne upon Utu-Hengal's death.

Tragically, his end came faster than anyone expected. In 2111 BC, while inspecting a dam, Utu-Hengal accidentally slipped and fell into the water, drowning, leaving the throne to his son in law.

By the time of his accession to the Kingship Ur-Nammu was a father of two. A son, Shulgi, born in 2115 BC, and a daughter, Ora, born the year of her grandfather's death. He had another daughter, Ama-barag, in 2110 BC, and a daughter, whose name has been lost, in 2108 BC.

One of the first things Ur-Nammu did as King of Ur and Overlord of Sumeria was to march on Gutium. His hatred for those people burnt brightly in him, both for what they did to

his people and for what they did to his family specifically.

He devestated much of Trigan's Kingdom, slaughtering countless innocent people, bringing the Gutians to their knees before returning home.

The destruction of Gutium gave him a thirst for war, so when Lagash tried its hand at winning its independence Ur-Nammu was happy to meet their leaders on the battlefield, eliminating them and hundreds of their warriors. Eridu and Uruk tried next, both put down with severity.

It isn't hard to fathom that Ur-Nammu's ruthlessness, while most likely a personality trait, also came from the fact he was afraid of losing his Crown like his great grandfather had. He knew how easily power slipped away from an uncautious man, so was always alert to rebellions or unrest.

For all his brutal battle prowress, Ur-Nammu also restored Sumeria to its former glory under his ancestors. He rebuilt roads, enforced the law, showing impartiality to noble or commoner, and brought peace to those who obeyed him.

Another accomplishment the King did was the building of the Great Ziggurat of Ur, a large Temple dedicated to the Moon God Nanna whom Ur-Nammu was devoted.

Ur-Nammu's life came to an end in 2094 BC while out on a military campaign against the Gutians. His army, tired of his

harshness, abandoned him on the battlefield and the Gutians, eager to avenge themselves on the man they viewed as a tyrant, came down on him, butchering the King.

Ora and Reu

Shulgi succeeded Ur-Nammu as King, and a few years later in 2091 BC he arranged the marriage of Ora to Reu, son of Phalak and Lamnar. Reu was the Governor of Ur, the man who handled the day to day affairs of the city.

A hereditary position his family held since the days of his great grandfather Arpakhshar, who claimed descent from King Ziusudra of Shuruppak, and through him to Allulim, the first man of Sumeria to be given Kingship from the Gods according to Sumerian tradition centuries before and who, ultimately, claimed descent from the Dragon Goddess Tiamat, Great Mother of the Gods.

With Reu, Ora had one son, Serug, born in 2088 BC.

Little is known of Reu or Ora's life together, their death dates are likewise unknown.

Serug and Melka

Serug succeeded his father as Governor of Ur at an unknown date, but most likely around 2040 BC. Prior to this, in 2068 BC he married Melka, a cousin as her grandparents were Phalek and Lamnar.

With Melka, Serug became the father of Nahor, born 2067 BC.

Besides this fact, and the fact he was known for an interest in Magic and spellcasting, little can be said of Serug. Both his and Melka's death dates are lost to time.

Nahor and Iyosaka

Nahor, apart from serving as Governor of Ur, also engaged in crafting Statues for Temples and personal use for the people, a trade he was quite skilled at.

In 2020 BC, at the age of forty seven, Nahor married Iyosaka, a woman who, so legend says, was half Elven through her mother's side. A Princess of the Chaldean people, Iyosaka

moved to Ur to live with Nahor and together they had two sons:

Terah, born 2019 BC.

Azar, born 2017 BC.

Apart from Nahor's professions and his wife, nothing is else is known of him. He died in 2000 BC. Iyosaka's date of death has not come down.

Terah and Yawna

Terah carried on his family's role of serving as Ur's Governors, and in between he acted as a Priest to the Gods, building statues for the people.

In 1989 BC he married Yawna, an Elven Princess if one believes Sumerian tradition, and with her had three sons:

Harran, born 1988 BC.

Nahor, born 1987 BC.

Abraham, born 1985 BC.

Terah's rank as Governor allowed his family to live in comfort

and they wanted for nothing, but as young men his sons faced the greatest threat Ur had ever known.

Abraham and Sarai

As a young man Abraham married Sarai, a Princess of Egypt and daughter of Pharaoh Amenemhat I, founder of the Twelfth Dynasty of Egypt, and his wife Neferitatjenen, the granddaughter of Mentuhotep III, the penulimate Pharaoh of the Eleventh Dynasty.

But the two didn't get to enjoy married life for long, as soon an army surrounded Ur's walls.

Led by Kindattu, the King of Elam and a long time enemy of Ur, who made an alliance with the Gutians, the army laid siege to the city in 1963 BC.

Abraham's father and uncle led the King's, Ibbi-Sin's, army in the defense while their wives and children remained safe in their homes, but soon it became clear it was not a battle that could be one.

According to the biblical record, and Jewish and Islamic tradition, the God Yahweh (or Yehovah) appeared before

Abraham during the final days of Ur, telling him to leave the city for his own protection, that He would protect him if he heeded his words, following his commandments.

Having little choice in the matter the Prince decided to take a chance, convincing his brothers and their families (and several others) to follow him. His father and uncle, duty bound to fight, stayed behind, dying along with most of their men.

Leaving Ur to its fate (Kindattu took it a week later) Abraham led his family towards the land of Canaan, what is today Israel, Palestine, Jordan, Lebanon, and parts of Syria. It was populated by descendants of Canaan, a grandson of Noah and younger brother of Mizraim and Cush, the founders of the Kingdoms of Egypt and Nubia respectively.

Along the way they settled in Haran, a city in what is today Turkey, Abraham putting his royal connections to use to establish them there. While only intended as a temporary place of residence, they ended up staying in Haran for eighteen years, only being forced to move when Ishbi-Erna, a man with no blood connection to Ur-Nammu, liberated Ur from Elamite rule and decided to attack to elimiate them due to fears they might challenge his rule.

Yehovah came to Abraham again, telling him Canaan was the prime destination for his family. The Prince listened, but Nahor, who always had a hard time believing in his brother's

visions to begin with, refused to go to Canaan now. Instead he took his family (save his son Lot, who stayed with his uncle) to Paddan-Aram, in what is today Nothern Syria. Here they managed to establish themselves and lived out the rest of their lives in peace, growing prosperous as farmers.

Abraham and the others went on to Canaan, where slowly built himself up as a herdsmen, making alliances with Canaanite Chieftains, even going to war when necessary, establishing himself as a wealthy tribal leader in his own right.

Abraham's first child was not with Sarai, but with her younger sister, Hagar, whom Sarai gave her husband believing she herself was barren.

Hagar duly conceived and in 1943 BC she gave birth to a son they named Ishmael. According to Islamic and Jewish tradition Ishmael would become the forefather of the Arab people.

Tensions arose soon thereafter between Hagar and her elder sister, due mainly to Sarai's jealousy, and eventually Abraham needed to send her and his son away for their own safety. Ishmael would grow up into a strong tribal warlord, marrying a cousin, Nefrusobek, the daughter of his uncle Senusret I of Egypt and his wife Neferu, and fathered twelve sons who would go on to found the Arab tribes.

Sarai would bear a son of her own not long after this fall out

between herself and Hagar, in 1940 BC she gave birth to Isaac.

Sarai lived until 1905 BC when she passed away from natural causes while her husband was away. Abraham mourned her loss many days, but he swallowed his grief enough to purchase the Cave of Machpelah, a series of tunnels close to what is today the City of Jerusalem, from Ephron the Hittite, an ally and friend.

Here Abraham buried Sarai.

As Chieftain he was expected to marry another, and so he did despite his grief. He married a native Canaanite woman named Keturah of which not much is known. With her Abraham had six sons:

Zimran, born 1904 BC.

Jokshan, born 1903 BC.

Medan, born 1902 BC.

Midian, born 1900 BC.

Ishbak, born 1898 BC.

Shuah, born 1897 BC.

Abraham would live to be ninety, dying in 1895 BC and was laid to rest beside Sarai in Machpelah by Isaac and Ishmael.

Isaac and Rebecca

Five years prior to his death, Abraham sent one of his servants, Eliezer the Syrian, to Paddam-Aram to seek out his relatives, hoping to find a good wife for Isaac, who was forty at this time and unmarried.

Eliezer dutifully carried out his mission, traveling to Paddam-Aram where he stopped at the town of Aram-Naharaim to water his camel. While attending to this task a young woman came out carrying a bucket.

Without prompting she offered to water Eliezer's camel while she was there to get some for her family. The Syrian, greatly moved by this unasked for compassion to his mount, readily accepted. The young woman's name was Rebecca.

Eliezer would end up having dinner with Rebecca's family. Her father, Bethuel, was Chieftain of Aram-Naharaim and son of Abraham's younger brother Nahor. With this new piece of information the Syrian told them why he was there and asked immediately for Rebecca's hand in marriage for Isaac, seeing how kind and good natured she was.

Bethuel agreed, desiring to stregthen connections with Canaan, but tragically, during the night the Chief died of a

heart attack, leaving the entire arrangement in jeopardy, but his son and heir, Laban, stepped in to fill the role, giving his blessing for Rebecca to marry Isaac.

With Eliezer, Rebecca left Aram-Naharim for Canaan where she and Isaac were married. With her, Isaac had twin sons, Esau and Jacob, born in 1893 BC.

Isaac lived to be eighty years old, passing away in 1860 BC and buried beside his parents in the Cave of Machpelah. Rebecca, having died five years prior to her husband, lived to be sixty and her final resting place is Machpelah.

Jacob and Leah

Since they were little there was always a rivalry between Jacob and his elder brother Esau. They competed for their parent' affection, who would do what chore on a particular day, and never seeming to get along. In Jewish tradition this has been pinned to the fact that Esau was the reincarnation of Cain, and Jacob the reincarnation of Abel, a possiblity I personally believe to be true.

Esau grew up to become a great hunter and warrior of the

Hebrew tribe while Jacob was drawn to the shepherd's profession. Their rivalry followed them into adulthood, causing Jacob to become jealous of his brother's promised inheritance.

To counter this Jacob formed a plan. He waited until his brother was about to go on a hunt and the night before stole his food from his pack, filling it with items scattered about their tent to trick him.

Esau fell for it, and to make matters worse, the hunt went poorly, leaving him on the verge of starvation when he finally returned home.

Jacob, guessing Esau's return date, was in the middle of cooking a meat filled stew. Esau fell to his knees before him, begging for a bite. The younger twin agreed to let him have some if Esau agreed to forsake his birthright, the Chieftainship of the Hebrew people.

Hungry and nearly ready to collapse, Esau agreed.

Of course once Esau ate and regained his strength he realized what he had done, but it was too late, his word was binding.

Jacob later tricked their blind father, Isaac, into bestowing the Chieftainship upon him a few years later as Isaac believed he would die soon. As twins the brothers shared similar voices and it was difficult for the elderly Isaac to tell them apart.

Jacob used this to his advantage, putting on cloaks of fur to mimick Esau's body hair (he was quite hairy, the main distinguishing feature between them as Jacob lacked much body hair besides a beard). Isaac fell for the rouse, blessing him and passing on the inheritance to him.

When Esau returned (he was again out hunting) and learned what his brother did to him, he swore revenge. Rebecca, terrified of losing both sons to violence, urged her youngest to flee Canaan, to seek refuge with her relatives in Aram-Naharaim.

Jacob did just that, finding safety with his uncle Laban. Here he met Rachel, the youngest child of his uncle, whom he fell in love (or rather lust) with immediately. A month after arriving he asked for her hand in marriage.

Laban agreed if he would work for him for seven years on his farm. Jacob was willing, his yearning for Rachel that strong, the seven years seeming like nothing at all to him. In 1866 BC, at the age of twenty seven, Jacob was married to.....Leah.

Laban, just as crafty as his nephew, arranged it so that the night the marriage was consumated it was so dark Jacob could not see clearly, and the Chieftain swapped Rachel for Leah.

Why or how Jacob did not notice is a question no one will ever have the answer to, but he slept with Leah, only discovering

his uncle's deception the following morning.

Understandably furious Jacob demanded an explanation from his uncle, who explained it wasn't right the younger should marry before the elder, and promised to give him Rachel if he worked an additional seven years.

Jacob, his love for Rachel so strong, agreed, Laban allowing him to marry her a week after his marriage to Leah.

Through both women (and two servants of theirs who became his concubines) Jacob became the father of thirteen children:

Reuben, born to Leah in 1865 BC.

Simeon, born to Leah in 1864 BC.

Levi, born to Leah in 1863 BC.

Judah, born to Leah in 1861 BC.

Dan, born to the concubine Bilhah in 1860 BC.

Naphtali, born to Bilhah in 1858 BC.

Gad, born to the concubine Zilpah in 1857 BC.

Asher, born to Zilpah in 1856 BC.

Isaachar, born to Leah in 1854 BC.

Zebulon, born to Leah in 1853 BC.

Joseph, born to Rachel in 1852 BC.

Benjamin, born to Rachel in 1851 BC.

Dinah, born to Leah in 1850 BC.

Jacob eventually returned to Canaan where he and Esau, despite all the years of hostility, patched up their relationship. Esau had formed his own tribe, and married a daughter of Ishmael, Basemath, having a family of his own.

When Isaac died Jacob took over the Chieftainship of the Hebrew people, ruling well and wisely. Jacob would lead his people into Egypt in his later years where, in 1796, he died at the age of ninety seven. Leah and Rachel died many years before him. All three were buried in the Cave of Machpelah.

Judah and Tamar of Kadesh

Judah grew up in Canaan in a time of tribal warfare, and he became a mighty warrior at a young age, a role forced upon him but one he accepted without any qualms. At sixteen in 1845 BC he was married to Princess Tamar of Kadesh, daughter of King Shua of Kadesh and maternal granddaughter of Barsan, King of Adullam, and great granddaughter of Bera, King of Sodom.

With her Judah had three children:

Pharez, born in 1843 BC.

Zerah, born 1842 BC.

Tamar, born 1832 BC.

The greatest feat of arms Judah performed was when he and his brothers Simeon and Levi led the warriors of the Hebrew tribe against the town of Shechem when Dinah was raped by the son of Hamor, King of Shechem while visiting friends there.

Judah, while not the eldest, was the best fighter and as such led the way. To him it didn't matter if not all the people of Shechem were guilty of rape, the fact they didn't prevent it made them just as worthy of death as the Prince.

Hamor allied with Jashub, King of Tappuah, and the two men stood against the Hebrew attack. Judah, marking the Tappuah King for death, went for him almost immediately. To get to him the Hebrew needed to carve his way through four Canaanite warriors, which he did with ease, his skills with a sword that refined.

He defeated and killed Jashub in hand to hand combat, leading his men in sacking Shechem, killing his sister' rapist, his father, and most of the men, taking the women and children back to be sold into slavery later.

The other episode Judah is remembered for is being the voice of 'reason' when his other brothers wanted to kill their father's favorite, Joseph. Instead of murdering him as they previously planned, Judah talked them into selling him into slavery instead, selling him to Arab traders.

This choice, while horrendous at the time, proved to be what saved the Hebrews when famine struck Canaan many years later and they fled into Egypt along with other immigrants seeking relief.

Joseph, due, it is said, to his ability to read dreams and predict the future, became the Grand Vizier to Pharaoh Amenemhat III and married to his granddaughter Aenseth.

Joseph forgave his brothers, bringing them into the royal court and setting them up in comfortable homes.

Judah and Tamar lived the rest of their lives in Egypt. Tamar lived until 1803 BC, passing away of natural causes. Judah lived to be ninety nine and passed away in 1762 BC.

Tamar and Ephraim

Judah's youngest child married the youngest son of Joseph

and Aenseth in 1815 BC.

Together with Ephraim, Tamar gave birth to a son, Shuthelah, in 1813 BC.

Tamar and Ephraim lived a good life in Egypt, but not much can be said in detail about that life.

Tamar died in 1755 BC. Ephraim in 1752.

Shuthelah and Tera

Shuthelah grew up in the Egyptian royal court and spent his life as a courtier. He married Tera, an Egyptian woman and a descendant of Mizraim, known to the Egyptians as Narmer.

With Tera, Shuthelah became the father of Bered, born in 1788 BC.

It is unknown when either Shuthelah or Tera died.

Bered

Bered became a father late in life, fathering his son with an unknown woman in 1730 BC. This son's name was Tahath.

Bered died in 1700 BC at eighty eight.

Tahath and Aseamun

Tahath would be the last of his family to know freedom. He married an Egyptian noblewoman named Aseamun in 1712 BC and with her fathered a son, Eleadah, the following year.

Tahath died young in 1698 BC, and not long after the Pharaoh, Merneferre Ay, fearing the growing number of Hebrew descendants in Lower Egypt around the province of Goshen, declared them slaves.

Eleadah and his mother, along with all the descendants of Jacob, were rounded up and placed in chains.

Eleadah and Zora

While a slave Eleadah married Zora, a descendant of Dan, in 1695 BC. By Zora he became the father of Tahath in 1690 BC. Both died in 1677 BC from unknown causes, but most likely stress related.

Tahath II

Who Tahath married is unknown, but he fathered one child, Salitis , in 1673 BC. He died at an unknown time but before 1650 BC.

Salitis

Salitis, like all Israelites, the ethnic label the Hebrews now went by, grew up a slave, doing back breaking labour for their Egyptian masters.

The treatment, as one might imagine, was harsh, causing Salitis and his people unimaginable suffering. For years he took the beatings, the verbal insults, the taunting, but in 1652

BC they became unbearable.

Somehow Salitis managed to escape his masters, leaving Goshen and disappearing into the deserts, where no one heard from him for two years.

Then, out of nowhere in 1650 he returned, at the head of a vast army of Canaanite warriors. Salitis, over the past few years, gathered allies among Canaanite Kings tired of Egyptian Overlordship, and promised them riches in exchange for their help.

He invaded the Egyptian Kingdom, slaughtering the soldiers sent against him, razing cities and Temples to the ground, capturing Egyptian women and children and selling them into slavery in revenge for the suffering of his people.

Salitis took the cities of Avaris and Memphis, declaring himself Pharaoh, effectively severing Lower Egypt from the rest of the Kingdom and establishing the Fifteenth Dynasty.

With the threat of invasion ever present against Upper Egypt, Salitis was able to get tribute from the natives as well as freeing all the Israelite slaves. He was remembered in Egyptian history as a cruel tyrant, but a hero among the descendants of Jacob.

The new Pharaoh fortified his eastern borders, built alliances with native nobles willing to work with him, creating an

standing army of two hundred and forty thousand soldiers.

He ruled from Avaris for nineteen years. Whom he married is unknown, but with her Salitis had one son, Bnon, in 1648 BC.

Salitis died in 1631 BC, Bnon succeeding him.

Bnon

Bnon took the throne as Sakir-Har and ruled for ten years, in this time fathering a son he named Khyan with an unknown mistress.

He died in 1621 BC.

Khyan

A boy of nine when he came to the throne, Khyan did not come into full authority until he was sixteen in 1614 BC. In the same year his wife, a daughter of Pharaoh Intef VII of Upper Egypt, gave birth to his first child, a boy he named Yamassi.

In 1613 BC another son, Apepi, was born to him. As Pharaoh Khyan was the first of his family to use the title 'Great Dragon King' in reference to his family's tradition they were descended from the Sumerian Dragon Goddess Tiamat and the Dragon blood that flowed in their veins.

In 1611 BC a daughter, Tani, was born, and another, Ziwati, in 1610 BC, completing the family.

Khyan ruled peacefully until 1580 BC. During this time Yamassi passed away from unknown causes, leaving Apepi to take the throne after his father's death.

Apepi and Tai

When Apepi came to the throne in 1580 BC, he wasted little time in exerting his authority over Upper Egypt, partially using his descent from Intef VII to do so.

He married a certain Tai, an Egyptian woman of Canaanite descent, in the same year he became Pharaoh of Lower Egypt. In 1579 BC she gave birth to Apepi II. In 1578 BC a daughter, Herit, was born.

Apepi I, the Second Great Dragon King, kept the peace his

great grandfather Salitis brokered with their Upper Egyptian rivals, but he shocked them when he declared his patron God was Set, who most native Egyptians equated with evil.

Of course, Apepi didn't see Set in this way, but he certainly enjoyed the anger it invoked in his neighbours. More than his predecessors Apepi II forced the Upper Egyptians to follow his will, whether they were nominally independent or not, thus in many ways it could be said he was ruler of all of Egypt.

Apepi ruled until 1660 BC when he passed away.

Apepi II

Little is known of Apepi II's reign as the Third Great Dragon King of Lower Egypt. In the same year he came to power he married a woman named Ahotea and by 1559 BC they had a son, Heka-Khaswit. In 1558 BC they had another son, Shaushtatar. In 1557 BC Ahotea gave birth to a daughter, Senisoth.

In 1550 BC Apepi II, known to the Upper Egyptians as Apepi the Evil due to the King following in the footsteps of his father in worshiping Set, was overthrown by a General, Khamudi,

and killed.

The Queen escaped with her children, fleeing to the Kingdom of Mitanni in what is today Northern Syria where she found refuge by marrying the Mitanni King, Baratarna, who adopted her children as his own.

Shaushtatar

Baratarna, not having children of his own, gave the throne to Shaushtatar upon his death in 1520 BC, believing he would make a better King than Heka-Khaswit. Thankfully this did not cause anomisty between the brothers, Heka-Khaswit serving in his brother's Court as a loyal officer.

One of the first things Shaushtatar did upon ascending to the throne was to focus his attention on Assyria, the land his stepfather and predecessors desired for a long time, invading it and attacking the capital of Ashur, forcing the Kingdom to accept his Overlordship.

Once Assyria was under his thumb the Mittani King turned his attention to other Middle Eastern nations, conquering several Syrian Kingdoms in the North.

By the time he had ascended to power Khamudi was long dead, killed in 1540 BC by Ahmose, the Upper Egyptian Pharaoh who invaded and conquered Lower Egypt, reuniting the country. Now the Mittani King wanted to reclaim his ancestral lands, igniting a war with Egypt.

His enemy in this war was Amenhotep I, son of Ahmose and his Queen Ahmose-Nefertari, who was not about to let an upstart from a smaller Kingdom take over the State his father brought back together. This war, however, was mainly fought through politics, only a few minor battles taking place with neither side able to claim victory. In the end they came to peace, sealing the deal with the marriage of Shaushatatar's sister, Senisoth, to Amenhotep's cousin, Thutmose.

Shaushatatar, known as the 'Wood Lord' due to his frequent visits to forests and groves to worship the spirits of nature, is said to have taken an Elven woman as his mistress late in life, fathering a son, Artatama, in 1470 BC.

The King of Mittani died ten years after his son's birth, in 1460 BC, at the age of ninety six.

Artatama

Known as the 'Horse Lord' due to his love of horse riding, Artatama reigned in Mittani peacefully, avoiding war with Egypt. In 1432 BC he married Merti, an Egyptian woman of unknown family background and had three children:

Shuttarna, born 1431 BC.

Mutemwiya, born 1430 BC.

Yuya, born 1429 BC.

Late in his reign, in 1410 BC, he arranged the marriage of Mutemwiya to Thutmose, the heir of Amenhotep II of Egypt.

When Mutemwiya left for North Africa Yuya chose to follow her, hoping to make a life for himself in Egypt.

Artatama lived until 1400 BC, passing away from unknown causes.

Yuya and Thuya

As brother of a lady of the Egyptian Court, Yuya was treated well, being given an estate in Upper Egypt in the town of Akhmin. Here he grew his wealth under the patronage of his brother in law, Thutmose, who became Thutmose IV in 1401

BC upon the death of his father.

Around the time Thutmose rose to the throne, Yuya was given the hand of Thuya in marriage, a relative of the royal family as she descended from Pharaoh Ahmose and his Queen, Ahmose-Nefertari.

Together they had three children, two sons and a daughter:

Ay, born 1400 BC.

Anen, born 1399 BC.

Tiye, born 1398 BC.

Yuya rose to prominence in 1380 BC when his daughter, Tiye, married Amenhotep III, the son of Thutmose IV and Mutemwiya, who succeeded his father in 1391 BC. Amenhotep III, wishing to make Tiye happy, brought her father and brothers into the inner Court, making Yuya Master of the Horse, which meant he served as royal envoy to foreign lands, a highly respected position.

Yuya excelled in this post, rising to become Grand Vizier to his son in law and priest of the God Min. He remained in these positions until his death in 1374 BC at age fifty four.

Tiye and Amenhotep III

Tiye was a strong willed woman, fiercely independent in an age where it almost unheard of for women to be so assertive (especially in Egypt). Amenhotep III, rather than finding these traits repulsive, found in Tiye an equal and co-ruler.

She ruled alongside him as Queen of Egypt for many years as his advisor and confidant. She even corrosponded with foreign rulers in her own right, several letters written in her name being known, the respect she wielded being so great that foreign Kings and Chieftains had no qualms in talking with her.

With Amenhotep III, Tiye gave birth to six children, four daughters and two sons:

Sitamun, born 1378 BC.

Iset, born 1376 BC.

Henuttaneb, born 1375 BC.

Nebetah, born 1373 BC.

Thutmose, born 1372 BC.

Amenhotep, born 1370 BC.

Tiye continued to advise her husband, and later her youngest son, Amenhotep (Thutmose dying young) when he came to

the throne in 1351 BC.

She died at sixty in 1338 BC.

Amenhotep IV and Kiya

Amenhotep IV came to the Egyptian throne following the death of his father in 1351 BC. Originally never intended to be Crown Prince, things changed when his elder brother Thutmose unexpectedly died as a young man, leaving Amenhotep the only living male heir.

A very religious man, Amenhotep IV was devoted to Aten, the Lord of the Sun, an obscure Egyptian deity he was drawn to. He came to believe Aten, not Amun, was the Chief of the Gods and demanded his subjects go along with this belief.

While not a monotheist in the modern sense, as Akhenaten recognized the other deities of his people, he elevated Aten to the head of the Pantheon, declaring only He was worthy of worship.

This led to widespread anger among the populace of both Upper and Lower Egypt, native Egyptians and those of other ethnic groups alike. But Amenhotep IV remained firm in his

convictions, going so far as to rename himself Akhenaten meaning 'beneficial to the Aten'.

Nefertiti, an Arab woman from the Kingdom of Saba, was his Queen and mother of some of his children, but the Pharaoh had other wives as well, including Kiya, his half sister, the daughter of Amenhotep III and Gilukhipa, the cousin of Tiye and daughter of King Shuttarna of Mittani.

With Kiya, Akhenaten had one daughter:

Kiya, born 1350 BC.

In 1334 BC Akhenaten's religious reforms finally went too far, the nobles rebelling under two Generals, Horemheb and Ramesses, who overthrew the Pharaoh and his followers.

Akhenaten, taking whomever would follow him, went into exile into the Sinai. Many of his followers were Israelites, descendants of the slaves his ancestor Salitis freed, and some believe, including myself, that this was the historical basis of the Exodus, and thus Akhenaten was Moses.

In the Sinai many supernatural occurances took place if one (as I do) believes the Biblical account contains many truths, but it is not the purview of this piece to discuss them in any great detail.

During Akhenaten's wanderings his daughter, Kiya, married an Israelite named Rama, a descendant of Judah through his son

Pharez.

Akhenaten died in 1332 BC in Sinai, succeeded by his son Tutankhamun.

Kiya II and Rama

Kiya gave birth to a son, Amminadab, in 1333 BC while her father was leading his people through the Sinai peninsula.

Rama was Chieftain of the tribe of Judah at this time and led his people during the harshest of the years of wandering.

Both Kiya and Rama died sometime during the forty year sojourn in the wilderness, but when isn't known.

Amminadab and Thehara

When his father became too elderly to lead the Judahites Amminadab took over the Chieftainship in 1290 BC. In this year he married Thehara, a daughter of Seti I, son of Ramesses

I and Pharaoh of Egypt.

The marriage between the former ruling House of Egypt and Seti's was made to ensure peace. One of the promises Amminadab made in order to marry Thehara was that he gave up his rights to the Egyptian throne.

By this time the Israelites were in Canaan, settling in among the natives and establishing themselves there. Joshua, Tutankhamun's Hebrew name , leading the way.

In 1289 BC Thehara gave birth to their first child, a son they named Nahson. In 1288 BC she gave birth to a daughter they named Elisheba.

It is unknown when either Amminadab or Thehara passed away.

Nahshon and Simara

As a young man Nahshon fought alongside Joshua and the other Israelite warriors in battling the native Canaanites to carve out their own territory.

When the campaigns ended in 1260 BC Nahshon settled in the

Judean foothills, a part of the land alotted to his tribe, in the village of Bethlehem. In the same year he married Simara, the daughter of a certain Yuhannas, a tribal elder of whom nothing is known.

With Simara, he became the father of a son, Hur, born in 1258 BC.

Over the following years the couple had four more sons:

Salmon, born 1257 BC.

Elimelech and Ardon, born 1255 BC.

Hareph, born 1252 BC.

As Chieftain Nahshon spent his days settling disputes, using the Torah, the instructions given to the Israelites by Yahweh according to biblical tradition, as his guidebook.

He died in 1239 BC. Simara in 1232.

Salmon and Rahab

Salmon lived the life of a farmer and tribal Judge in Judah's territory. Little of his life is known as it was largely uneventful.

Late in life, around 1200 BC at fifty seven he married Rahab, a granddaughter of Joshua and his wife, Rahab of Jericho.

With her the Judge had several sons, of whom nothing is known save his youngest, Boaz, born in 1190 BC.

Salmon died in 1188 BC. Rabah in 1170 BC.

Boaz and Ruth

Like his father, Boaz did not marry until late in life. Instead he gave himself over to spiritual pursuits and became a Judge.

A good, kindly man, Boaz spent his days judging cases between the Judahites, meditating on the Torah, and enjoying his solitude.

When not working as a Judge he could be found in the fields helping bring in the crops, not afraid to get his hands dirty doing 'ordinary' work.

In 1130 BC, while he was out supervising the crop harvesting, he noticed a young woman he had never seen before in the fields.

He inquired about her, finding out she was Ruth, a Princess of

Moab, a daughter of King Eglon, granddaughter of Balak, and a descendant of Abraham's nephew Lot.

Captivated by her modesty and beauty, Boaz proposed, Ruth accepting. The two having a happy, fruitful marriage.

In 1128 BC Ruth gave birth to their son, Obed, completing the family.

Boaz lived until 1112 BC. Ruth living into the 1080s BC.

Obed and Abalit

Unlike his father, grandfather, and great grandfather, Obed did not take part in the public life of Israel in any capacity, whether that be on a tribal level or national level. He was content to live the life of a simple farmer and shepherd.

In 1100 BC he married Abalit, daughter of a certain Sonas, whose father is unknown but his mother was Nafut, a daughter of Sheleh, and a maternal descendant of the Kings of Adullam.

Together they had the following children:

Jonathan, born 1099 BC.

Azariah, born 1097 BC.

Jesse, born 1095 BC.

It is unknown when either Obed or Abalit died.

Jesse and Nitzevet

The youngest of his parents' children, Jesse's opportunities were limited in life, but despite this he did well for himself by becoming a Torah scholar and respected teacher in his home village of Bethlehem.

In 1051 BC Jesse married Nitzevet, daughter of Adael of Geshur, a Syrian convert to the Israelite faith, and with her he had ten children, eight sons and two daughters:

Eliab, born 1050 BC.

Abinadab, born 1049 BC.

Shammah, born 1048 BC.

Nathanel, born 1047 BC.

Raddai, born 1045 BC.

Ozem, born 1044 BC.

Elihu, born 1043 BC.

Zeruiah, born 1042 BC.

Abigail, born 1041 BC.

David, born 1040 BC.

Jesse supported his family by serving as a Judge and tending a farm, living a good and simple life.

Jesse died in 1000 BC. Nitzevet in 997 BC.

David and Bathsheba

Growing up on the family farm in the Judean hills David spent much of his time tending his father's sheep herd, learning how to use a sling shot he made himself, practicing on the wolves and lions who tried to feast upon the sheep.

Three years prior to David's birth the tribes of Israel had come together under one man's Kingship, Saul son of Kish of the tribe of Benjamim, chosen by the Prophet Samuel after the Israelite leaders demanded to have a King like other nations.

During Saul's early reign the King led the Israelites in defensive wars against the Philistines, the greatest enemy of

ancient Israel. The Philistines, originally Greeks who migrated to the Middle East centuries earlier and intermarried with Canaanites, had dominated their Israelite neighbours for over two centuries.

David's eldest brothers Eliab and Abinadab would later serve under Saul in his wars, the youngest child of Jesse watching them march away to war as he was tasked with guarding the sheep flock.

For all of his childhood and his early teens the Kingdom of Israel was defended well by Saul and his eldest son, Jonathan, but in 1028 BC, when he was eighteen, the Philistines made an incursion into Israelite territory Saul could not prevent.

David's brothers were on the frontlines in this invasion, the enemy reaching Judah's territory. The Philistine army marching into the town of Socoh, taking it over and establishing it as their base.

The Israelites assembled in the valley of Elah and a day later the Philistines came to meet them in battle, lining up on one hill, the Israelites on the other.

Then, suddenly out of the Philistine ranks came a warrior named Goliath of Gath who taunted the enemy. According to the Biblical account and later Rabbinic legend Goliath was a giant, standing well over nine feet tall in height. How one

wants to interpret this is up to every individual to decide, whatever the case Goliath was a fearsome warrior who sent terror into the hearts of Israel's men.

He was also a relative of David's for his paternal great grandmother, Orpah, was the sister of Ruth, though it is unlikely either knew this at the time.

Goliath demanded the Israelites send their finest warrior out to face him. If they won, the Philistines would be Israelite slaves. But if he won, all of Israel would fall to the Philistine people.

While this chaotic scene was unfolding David came down from the Judean hills on an errand from his father, delivering food to his brothers, arriving just in time to hear Goliath's mocking laugh.

Even though up to this time in his life David never fought on a battlefield these insults enraged him. He handed his brothers their meal and went to the King, ignoring the proper protocol (due, likely, to not understanding how such things worked), asking for permission to fight the Philistine who dared mock the people of Israel and their Gods.

Saul, bewildered, not knowing what to do, granted the shepherd his request, though why he would risk Israel's future on a young man of eighteen with no battle experience is

anyone's guess.

Saul handed David his armour but, as he was slim it didn't fit. The son of Jesse thanked his Lord but decided to fight in his regular clothing, unencumbered by the armour's weight.

When Goliath saw who the Israelites sent out he laughed, mocking them for sending a youth so delicate and without any signs of a warrior.

David, who was handsome with red hair and bright brown eyes, did indeed look like an innocent kid straight off the farm, but Goliath underestimated him. The son of Jesse quickly picked up a rock, placed it in his sling, and as Goliath moved closer he launched it at him, smacking the brute right in his forehead, dropping him instantly.

David snatched up the Philistine's sword and swung it down on his neck, decapitating him, holding the bloody prize for all to see. Seeing this galvanized the Israelites, Saul and Jonathan leading the charge into the confused Philistine ranks, killing a great many of them and taking dozens of unforunate souls back to be made into slaves.

For his victory David was made a warrior in Saul's Court and through this he forged a close friendship (indeed, some even say a romance developed between them, I believe so) with Jonathan. He didn't return to Bethlehem for years, instead

going with the King to the Kingdom's then capital of Gibeah in the territory of Benjamin.

Unlike later Kings of Israel Saul did not live a lavish lifestyle. Instead he worked his farm as other men did, holding Court when he wasn't busy. His primary function was as a uniting force in war, and in this he proved effective.

David proved himself worthy of his promotion, becoming a renowned warrior in the years following Goliath's death, and eventually became a General. He married Saul's daughter, Michal, shortly after entering the King's service, cementing his relationship with the House of Saul.

However, as David's fame increased throughout the country Saul's suspicions grew about him. Whether it was due to paranoia, or, as some theorize based on their interpretation of First Samuel, a mental illness, the King started to suspect David wished to kill him and seize the throne.

Of course this was untrue. David was a loyal servant of Saul, believing him to be the divinely appointed King of Israel, but still this did nothing to ease the growing tension between the two men.

In 1010 Saul, growing increasingly deranged, tried assasinating David, but thanks to Jonathan, who warned him in advance, he was able to escape and flee to the town of Nob where the

head priest, Ahimelech, took him in and fed him.

Knowing he could not stay in Israel when a price was on his head, David decided to head into Philistine territory. He went to Gath where he offered his services to its King, Achish, accepted.

The irony of this certainly wasn't lost on David. He rose to prominence by defeating Gath's greatest warrior and now, forced to run for his life, fought in the very same army he once opposed. For a year and six months he led raids against Gath's enemies, including Israel from Ziklag, the fortress Achish gave him to command, the celebrated son now becoming the enemy of his very own country.

But his time in Philistinia was cut short when other Gathite Generals, envious a non Philistine was gaining the King's favor, accused David of treason.

Achish, knowing these men far longer than the Judahite, ordered his execution, so again David ran, this time to his ancestral homeland of Moab.

He stayed here but a short time before making the bold move to return to Israel, tired of running. Over the next few months he ended up in the mountains of Ziph, here David formed a band of followers, rebels against Saul. Some were former soldiers under him during his years of service in the Israelite

army, others locals who supported his cause, all were united in love and loyalty to him as their leader.

Once Saul learned David was living in the Judean mountains he led several incursions into the territory to root him out, each time being repelled.

Saul's desire to end David's life ended with his own death in the Battle of Mount Gilboa in 1009 BC when he and Jonathan led the Israelite army against an invading Philistine force. Saul watched Jonathan and two other sons, Abinadab and Malchishua, fall in battle, cut down by Philistine blades.

Unable to handle the emotional distress Saul committed suicide by driving his sword through his stomach, dying as the Philistines overtook the Israelite ranks.

Once David heard of Saul's death he traveled with his men to the city of Hebron where he was declared King of Israel by the city's inhabitants. But, in the North, Saul's fourth son, Ishbaal, declared he was the rightful King and so the country was divided. David ruled as King of Judah while the House of Saul retained the rest of Israel.

One of David's first great acts as King was conquering the city of Jerusalem, then occupied by a native Canaanite people known as the Jebusites. The last Jebusite King, Ornan, submitted to David once the city fell and he spared the

monarch and his family.

One of Ornan's daughters, Bathsheba, would go on to marry one of David's leading Generals, Uriah, a convert to the Israelite religion originally from Anatolia.

By 1000 BC Ishbaal was dead, assassinated by two soldiers who believed they could gain favor from David should they assassinate his rival. Instead all they received was execution, the ruler of Judah disgusted at their act of cowardice. Nonetheless David accepted the Kingship of all Israel, taking into his care Meribaal, the only child of Jonathan, who had been living with Ishbaal.

This was an extraordinary thing as Meribaal might have been considered a contender to the throne, indeed the rightful heir by many given his descent from the senior line of the House of Saul, but despite this David took the boy in, perhaps feeling he was no threat due to being disabled (Meribaal couldn't walk on his own). He allowed the Prince to live with him in his palace in Jerusalem, treating him like his own nephew. Thanks to David's (and later his son's Solomon's) kindness, Meribaal was able to live a quiet, happy life.

As King David expanded Israel's territory through war, expanding into Moab, Ammon, and other lands. He also, unfortunately, had a wandering eye.

One day, while walking about his palace, he spotted Bathsheba bathing on the roof of her home. At the time the army was in Ammon, her husband with it. Breathtakingly beautiful, David desired her immediately and he used his royal authority to force himself upon her.

Bathsheba fell pregnant and David, panicking, sent for Uriah hoping he would sleep with her and coverup any wrongdoings on his part.

But, Uriah, ever loyal to his men, refused to enjoy such pleasures while they could not. Therefore David, unable to own up to his mistakes, gave Uriah a note, ordering him to give it to David's nephew and leading General, Joab.

Little did Uriah know that the note contained orders for Joab to put Uriah in the frontlines and allow him to be killed, which was duly done.

The King of Israel quickly married Bathsheba afterwards and months later she gave birth to a baby boy, who tragically died soon after.

The biblical writers attribute the boy's death to God, but infant mortality in the ancient world was high, so it is no great surprise the poor thing's life ended far too early.

In 998 BC Bathsheba gave birth again to another baby boy whom she and David named Solomon. Unlike his elder

brother, Solomon grew up healthy. After Solomon, Nathan was born in 997, Shammua in 995 BC, and lastly Shobab in 993 BC.

David had many other children with other wives and concubines, far too many to list here, but they would plague his elderly years for, as much as he loved them, he was not a good father in many respects, especially in disicipline.

David spent much of his leisure time writing poetry, most of which was collected after his death into the Book of Psalms, a book in the Hebrew Bible.

King David ruled Israel until 970 BC when, at the age of seventy, he passed away.

Solomon and Naamah

Solomon, tutored by Nathan the Prophet as a boy, came to the throne at the age of twenty eight. Known as an intelligent man with a keen interest in both God and the Magical arts, Solomon became known as 'Solomon the Wise' due to his learning and ability to apply it to governance.

Unlike his father, who was, at the end of the day, a soldier

through and through, Solomon never went to war in his reign, preferring to make deals with foreign Kings and create friendships, gifting Israel many decades of peace.

However this does not mean there was always peace in the royal Court. Per his father's dying advice, Solomon started his reign with a purge, assassinating any who he felt might be a threat, including his cousin and Israel's leading General, Joab, who, Solomon believed, might support one of his elder brothers over him.

It was a bloody affair that ended with most posts being filled with friends and relatives, including his three full brothers. He founded numerous colonies across Asia minor and, some believe, as I do, even in North America. He stregthened the Israelite army, building up a strong standing force that he, luckily, never needed to use.

The greatest achivement of his reign, however, was the construction of the Temple in Jerusalem. This project, first envisioned by his father, was completed with the help of a skilled architect named Hiram, a man from the city of Tyre in what is today Lebanon. The Temple, the grandest building ever to exist in Israel, was given into the care of Zadok, a descendant of Aaron, the first High Priest of Israel, and proved to be the nation's pride.

As was already mentioned, Solomon was a lover of Magic and

the mystical arts, devoting much of his free time to learning spells, folklore, and legends. Many legends themselves surround the King, the most famous being that he created a Ring that allowed him to control Demons.

Solomon, a writer like his father, wrote several books in his lifetime including Proverbs, a book of wisdom and advice for his sons. Ecclesiastes, another book of wisdom and it is from it we get many modern day sayings such as 'There is nothing new under the sun,' and Song of Songs, a love poem he wrote during his affair with the Queen of Sheba, Makeda, who ruled a Kingdom in what is today Ethiopia, (this affair also produced a son, Menelik, who was the first Emperor of Ethiopia).

All these books can be read in the Hebrew Bible today. In addition to these works he also wrote The Ode of Solomon and The Book of Wisdom two more pieces of wisdom literature.

He also wrote The Key of Solomon and The Testament of Solomon, both works detailing his knowledge of the Arcane Arts.

Due to his many political alliances (and his love of the fairer sex) Solomon amassed over eight hundred wives and hundreds of concubines during his lifetime, and doubtless had many, many children, but only three are recorded:

Rehoboam, born 968 BC, to Naamah, the daughter of Hanun, King of Ammon and a descendant of Lot. She was Solomon's Queen and First Wife.

Taphath, born 960 BC, to one of her father's concubines. She married Abinadab, an Israelite nobleman and trusted man of her father's.

Basemith, born 958 BC, to another concubine. She married Ahimaaz, son of Zadok the High Priest and later High Priest himself.

Solomon ruled Israel for forty years, bringing his people a Golden Age. He died in 931 BC at the age of fifty five of natural causes.

Rehoboam and Maacah

While David and Solomon were loved by most of the Israelite people, the same could not be said of Rehoboam. During his early reign he lost the border cities, including Damascus, that David had won during his wars, losing them to Rezin, a Syrian rebel who went on to rule as King of Damascus.

Too make matters worse, within the first year of his reign a

rebellion broke out in Israel itself when the Northern tribe of Ephraim, led by Jeroboam, a nobleman and former royal official, revolted.

This revolt was sparked mainly by Rehoboam's high taxes on the people, many of whom couldn't afford to pay. Other factors included religion as most of the North continued the Polytheism their ancestors had known for centuries while Rehoboam tried introducing Monotheism, the belief in Yahweh alone as the true God of Israel.

Soon ten other tribes joined Ephraim, leaving only the tribes of Judah and Benjamin loyal to the House of David. Jeroboam formed the Kingdom of Samaria (also known as Israel) and through the next seventeen years of Rehoboam's reign the two Kingdoms were in a state of near constant conflict, though never again would they be united.

In 936 BC the Egyptians invaded, sweeping across Judah (as Rehoboam's Kingdom was now called), reaching all the way to the capital of Jerusalem. They stopped short of sacking the city, bought off by the King who gave the Pharaoh, Shishak, all the money out of the royal treasury in tribute, effectively making Judah a vassal of the North African Kingdom.

After this humilitating defeat Rehoboam went on to live quietly with his eighteen wives, in addition to having sixty concubines, apparently having his father's taste for women.

Of these wives one, Malahath, the daughter of Jerimoth, one of the numerous sons of his grandfather David, bore him three sons, all born during Solomon's reign:

Jeush, born 950 BC.

Shemariah, born 948 BC.

Zaham, born 946 BC.

Another woman who bore him children was Maacah, the daughter of Uriel of Gibeah and Tamar. Uriel was a member of the House of Saul as one of the grandsons of Meribaal and great great grandson of Saul. His wife was the daughter of Absalom, one of the sons of David with his Syrian wife Maacah, daughter of King Talmai of Geshur.

Maacah bore Rehoboam four sons:

Abijah, born 944 BC.

Attai, born 942 BC.

Shelomith, born 940 BC.

All of his sons would be given positions of authority in different cities across Judah and would work together to ensure the Kingdom remained intact.

Rehoboam died in 913 BC in Jerusalem.

Abijah

Upon the death of his father Abijah was chosen by the elders of Judah to be the next King. The reasons as to why was never specifically stated in the Book of Chronicles and the Books of Kings, the two main sources regarding the reigns of the Kings of Judah in the Hebrew Bible.

Like his father Abijah tried, and failed, to reunite the tribes of Israel into one nation, this ambition ultimately leading to the Battle of Zemaraim in 911 BC in the territory of Ephraim.

Abijah led his troops into Samaria hoping to defeat Jeroboam, who was still reigning as King, and to bring back the Golden Age Solomon ushered in.

He offered Jeroboam peace but the elderly man, wiser and more experienced, set up an ambush without the younger man even realizing it. As Abijah pleaded with Jeroboam to accept his offer a force of Samarians came up from the rear, and Jeroboam launched his own attack, catching the Jewish King in a pincer movement.

Abijah, keeping his cool, called upon his men to be brave and fight knowing God was on their side. He drew his sword and faced the advancing Samarians to his rear, leading his soldiers

into battle against them, killing over five hundred thouand Samarian soldiers.

Jeroboam, horribly shook by this disasterous defeat, retreated back to his capital of Tirzah, never again able to pose a serious threat to Judah.

But despite this great victory for the Jews, as the people of Judah were now called, Abijah could not enjoy it. Seriously wounded in the battle, the King died a few weeks later. Prior to his death, and long before the battle, he had married fourteen wives, one of whom, unnamed, gave birth to his successor, Asa, in 922 BC.

Asa and Azubah

A boy of eleven when he came to the throne at his father's passing, Asa's regnant during his minority was the Prophet Azariah, who also raised the boy to be a strict Monotheist.

At fifteen Asa was able to fully take on the role of King and almost immediately, upon Azariah's urging, he went on a purge of Polytheism within the Kingdom. Contrary to popular belief the Jews were originally Polytheistic, acknowledging

many Gods and Goddesses while venerating Yahweh (and his wife, Asherah, Lady of Heaven) as the Most High Gods. But Asa belonged to the Yahwahist alone school of thought, and he was no religious pluralist.

He destroyed Temples and altars throughout the country, including in the Temple of Solomon, throwing out the statues of Asherah and other Gods, decreeing that no longer would any of his subjects be allowed to worship any 'false' Gods.

In all this process was long and harsh, the purge lasting fifteen years, ending with a great feast held by the King in Jerusalem to celebrate the 'purity' of the Jewish faith.

While Asa was dogmatic in religious belief, he also cared for the welfare of his people and did much to ensure the common people thrived, bringing a Golden Age of plenty to his lands, so much so that many Samarians immigrated to Judah.

At the age of twenty five the King married Azubah, daughter of Shihi, a younger son of Jeroboam and his Egyptian wife Ano, sister of Karomama, Queen of Egypt, and daughter of a Libyan tribal Chieftain.

With Azubah, Asa had one son, Jehoshaphat, in 897 BC.

Asa fought against an Ethiopian invasion in 894 BC, defeating the African army in the valley of Zephath. He also fought the Samarians, defeating King Basha in battle and forcing his

forces back across the border.

However, like all men, Asa was not invincible. While he was a fierce warrior on the battlefield and a iron willed ruler on the throne, his strong mind could not save him from disease. In his later years he developed a severe disease in his legs which affected how he walked, leaving him disabled.

He appointed his son as coregnant to help govern the Kingdom when this happened, only to die two years later, in 870 BC, from his illness.

Jehoshaphat

A strong Monotheist like his father Jehoshaphat stamped out Polytheism wherever he found it in his Kingdom, perhaps being even more zealous than his father. Jehoshaphat also established a stronger legal system in the Kingdom, appointing Judges personally in all of the cities and doing more to ensure all men, common or noble, would be treated fairly under the laws of the Torah.

He fortified the border between Judah and Samaria and formed an alliance with the Northern tribes against the

Moabites under King Mesha, but this war ended when Mesha, as was a custom among his people, sacrificed his own small son and heir to Chemosh, the Head God of Moab, during the siege of his capital by the Jewish and Samarian armies, sending a wave of shock and revulsion through the ranks, causing them to retreat.

The wife of Jehoshaphat is unnamed in the Bible, but she bore him seven children:

Jehoram, born 879 BC.

Azariah, born 878 BC.

Jehiel, born 875 BC.

Zechariah, born 873 BC.

Azariahu, born 871 BC.

Michael, born 870 BC.

Shephatiah, born 867 BC.

Jehoshaphat reigned until 849 BC when he passed away in his bed.

Jehoram and Athaliah

Thanks to the alliances his father made Jehoram was given the hand of Athaliah, a Princess of Samaria and daughter of King Ahab and his wife, Jezebel, who in turn was a Princess of Tyre and daughter of King Ithobaal I.

With Athaliah, the King had a son and daughter:

Ahaziah, born 861 BC.

Jehosheba, born 860 BC.

Determined to have no opposition to his rule, Jehoram, soon after becoming Judah's sole ruler, had all his brothers assassinated in a single day, beginning his reign soaked in blood.

This show of force did not win him any friends, in fact it alienated many who might have otherwise been friendly, including the Viceroy of Edom.

A few years after the assassination of the royal siblings the Edomite Viceroy rebelled hoping to reestablish the region as its own Kingdom and while the Jewish King tried to reassert his authority it proved futile, ultimately being forced to recognize Edom's independence.

While not a strong politician like his father, in religion Jehoram was far more tolerant. While a Monotheist himself

he allowed religious freedom to his people, granting Polytheists the rights to worship freely and openly, but it came at a cost.

The town of Libnah, dedicated to Yahweh alone as the True God, revolted against such tolerance and the King fought its people. As they fought the Philistines and Arab tribes took the opportunity to raid Judah, the King finding himself besieged on all sides.

Jerusalem fell to a combined Philistine-Arab army, dealing a great blow to the Kingdom's morale. They took hundreds of people hostage, including several members of the House of David, only getting them back when the King paid a heavy ransom.

In all Jehoram ruled for seven years, spending the last two years sick with a deadly disease that caused his 'bowls to fall out', a reference to bowl cancer. He died in 842 BC, succeeded by Ahaziah.

Ahaziah and Zibiah

A young man of twenty when he came to the throne, Ahaziah

was already a father to a baby boy, Jehoash, born a few months before to his wife, Zibiah of Beersheba.

His mother, an intelligent and power hungry woman, held great influence over Ahaziah, though she made him believe he was the one making the decisions. A Polytheist, Ahaziah was talked into granting greater freedoms and benefits to the Polytheists in Judah by his mother for the sole purpose of pissing off the Monotheists whom Athaliah despised for their close mindedness.

A year into his reign Ahaziah decided to aid his uncle, Jehoram of Samaria, in his war against the Aramean King Hazrael. The two Kings went into the field, only to have Jehoram be seriously wounded and their combined armies defeated.

While the two monarchs recovered their strength a Samarian General named Jehu designed a plan of rebellion, tired of Jehoram's ineffective reign. He called the Kings to him, neither realizing until it was too late what the man had in mind.

Jehu shot Jehoram with his bow, Ahaziah watching his uncle die before his eyes. The young King, unarmed and with few bodyguards, tried to flee for his life, only to take an arrow in his back.

Ahaziah lived just long enough to make it to the fortress of Megiddo in the Jezreel valley, where he took refuge. Sadly his

wound proved too grave and he died within the hour of his arrival.

Jehoash and Jehoaddan

Still a baby when his father died, Jehoash was raised by his aunt, Jehosheba and his uncle in law Jehoiada, the High Priest of Israel and a descendant of Zadok, as his grandmother purged the Kingdom of any royal claimants to the throne, including Zibiah, declaring herself Queen of Judah.

For six long years Jehoash lived in secret with his aunt and uncle while Athaliah reigned over the Jewish people as a cruel tyrant. When it became too unbearable Jehosheba and Jehoiada took a chance, announcing the true King was in their care and crowned Jehoash in the Temple of Solomon.

Athaliah, outraged, rushed there with a squad of soldiers to kill the boy, but she instead met her death, the Temple guards finally putting an end to her reign with the edge of their blades.

With the Samarian Queen dead, Jehoiada and Jehosheba acted as regnants for the young six year old King, becoming

just as tyrannical as Athaliah to Polytheists. They destroyed the centers of Polytheistic worship, murdered the priests of other Gods and Goddesses, and forbid the worship of any but Yahweh. These religious purges gave the High Priest the power to expand Monotheism's influence, stregthening the Yahweh alone faction's power in Judah.

Jehoash was brought up with the Yahweh alone interpretation of the Torah so it is no surprise he became a fierce opponent of Polytheism when he took power at fifteen in 827 BC.

Jehoash's reign was largely uneventful, the King spending his time repairing the Temple his ancestor built a century before and implementing religious reforms on the advice of the High Priest., who became his father in law as Jehoash married Jehoaddan, a daughter of his aunt and uncle, in 825 BC, having two sons with her:

Amaziah, born 824 BC.

Amoz, born 822 BC.

Jehoiada died in 811 BC, and with him, the influence of the Yahweh alone faction. Free to explore religion on his own now, Jehoash listened to the elders of the people advocate religious freedom. He heeded their words, swayed by their arguments and allowed pluralism in the Kingdom again.

Of course this enraged the Monotheists and once more the

factions were at war. In time the Monotheists would be led by Zechariah, a son of Jehoiada and Jehosheba, and High Priest, who rebuked Jehoash for betraying God.

To Jehoash, though, he was living up to the tolerance displayed by King David and Solomon, both of whom allowed Polytheism and who themselves were Polytheistic. Zechariah and his followers became so disruptive that Jehoash, fearing revolt, sentenced the High Priest to death.

Zechariah was dragged to the priest's courtyard in the Temple and stoned to death, the King overseeing the execution personally.

Jehoash reigned until 796 BC, when his past actions came back to bite him. While walking about Jerusalem one of his servants, a devoted follower of Zechariah, attacked him, stabbing the King to death while the others watched on horrified.

Amaziah and Jecholiah

The first act of Amaziah's reign was to execute the servant who murdered his father, but, against the advice of his

friends, he allowed the man's children to live, seeing them as rightfully innocent.

Next he hired ten thousand mercenaries to reconquer Edom, which he did by winning a decisive victory over the Edomites, but it was soured by news of an Samarian raiding party sacking several Jewish towns.

Amaziah swiftly dealt with them and to celebrate his victories he placed Statues of Asherah, Baal, and other Edomite Gods inside Solomon's Temple, causing the Monotheists in his Court to decry him, but the King shrugged off the rebuke.

An elder, whose name went unrecorded, continued to harass the King, demanding he remove the Statues, and Amaziah retorted that should the man continue to pester him, he would be put to death.

The elder did stand down, and the King, his pride swelling due to the great victory he won, soon came to believe he could conquer Samaria and reunite the Kingdom of Israel.

He sent an envoy to King Joash of Samaria challenging him to single combat. At first Joash, not eager to enter into yet another conflict with Judah, tried calming his southern neighbour down, but Amaziah could not be deterred, and finally Joash insulted him, and the two Kings met on the battlefield with their armies.

Amaziah lost, captured by the Samarians and forced to watch Joash ravage Judah, breaking down Jerusalem's walls, taking all the funds out of the royal treasury, leaving the Kingdom in pieces.

As for the King himself, Joash let him go, but he did not long survive this destruction. Like his father Amaziah met his death by an assassin's blade, hacked down at Lachish in southern Judah in 792 BC.

Before his murder the King married Jecoliah, a noblewoman of Jerusalem, and by her had one son, Uzziah, born in 800 BC.

Uzziah and Jerusha

Eight when he came to the throne Uzziah's mother and a council of elders ruled in his name until he reached fifteen in 785 BC. With the help of the Prophet Zachariah, Uzziah was able to bring about an age of peace and prosperity for the Jewish people, Monotheists and Polytheists alike.

He was, in the tradition of David, a warlord as well, conquering the Philistines, the Arabs, and made Ammon a vassal State of Judah. At twenty three he married Jerusha,

daughter of Zadok, a Yahwehist Priest.

By her the King had one son, Jotham, born in 775 BC, and one daughter, Naomi, in 770 BC.

For decades Uzziah was held in high regard by all, but eventually his self preceived greatness went to his head as, in the latter part of his reign, he attempted to usurp the power of the High Priest in Jerusalem but was driven out by the Temple Guard who would not allow even the King to defile the Sacred Place. Uzziah soon developed leprosy and was forced to isolate himself, Jotham becoming his coregnant.

He died of leprosy in 750 BC.

Jotham

Jotham enjoyed a stable reign when he became sole King. He continued the Golden Age his father created, with only two wars being fought in his reign, one against Rezin, King of the Arameans, and the Kingdom of Ammon, both which he won.

With the aid of the Prophets Isaiah, Micah, Hosea, and Amos he was able to be an effective ruler for his people. The Yahwehist faction lacked a strong leader during this period,

allowing religious tolerance to flourish.

Who he married is unknown but before he became King his wife gave birth to a son, Ahaz, in 759 BC.

Jotham reigned until 732 BC, when he passed away.

Ahaz and Abijah

Ahaz was not able to celebrate his coronation properly for in the North King Pekah of Samaria and Rezin rose up on his day of Crowning.

Marshalling his warriors the newly minted King marched against them, but to his surprise they did not come to attack but to demand he help them defeat an invasion by the Assyrians, Ahaz refused, even when Isaiah told him to do so.

Due to this the Assyrians swept into the Aramean Kingdom, displacing the population and killing Rezin, then went against Samaria, dealing out the same fate to its people. To Judah, thanks to the quick thinking of Ahaz, they did nothing but ask tribute, which the Jewish King gave them.

This vassalage angered Isaiah, who had counseled the King to

trust in the Gods and meet the Assyrians as a warrior would, but Ahaz again refused to heed the Prophet's advice.

However, as it would turn out, the King's choice to become a vassal allowed Judah to continue to flourish, the Assyrians not being overly demanding masters. In 723 BC Ahaz married Abijah, daughter of Zachariah, a writer who helped Isaiah write the Prophetic book named after him.

In 722 BC she gave birth to their only child, a baby boy they named Hezekiah.

Ahaz died in 716 BC, condemned by the Yahwehists as an enemy of God, but revered by the Polytheists for his open mindedness and for continuing the Golden Age of Uzziah.

Hezekiah and Hephzibah

Hezekiah, when he took power in his own name after reaching maturity in 707 BC, focused on restoring Solomon's Temple to Monotheistic worship. He removed the statues of other Gods, forbid Polytheists from entering, and declared the Kingdom's only God to be Yahweh.

He rooted out Polytheists in the government, destroying altars

throughout the country, courses of actions condemned by thousands but the King did not care. He had the Torah, an oral tradition of laws handed down on Mount Sinai, put into writing so that the people of Israel would never forget it.

In 700 BC he married Hephzibah, a younger daughter of the Prophet Isaiah, and by her had two sons:

Manasseh, born 699 BC.

Amariah, born 698 BC.

Hezekiah, fuelled by the belief Yahweh was on his side, stopped paying tribute to the Assyrians, and, predictably, this brought down hell on the Jews.

An invasion force smashed through the country in 697 BC, reaching all the way to Jerusalem. Hezekiah put up a valiant fight as the enemy besieged the city, living up to his legacy as a scion of David.

But, due to superior numbers, the Assyrians finally prevailed and the King, surrendering, was forced to pay tribute again.

In his later reign Hezekiah grew sick from an unknown illness which eventually took his life in 687 BC.

Manasseh and Meshullemeth

Where Hezekiah was a Monotheistic Zealot, his eldest son was a Polytheistic Zealot. Manasseh became a devout Polytheist early in life, hiding this from his father, but when he became King he dropped any pretense at being a Yahwheist.

As it would turn out, he was to be the last great Polytheistic monarch the Jews would have. Like his ancestors who valued religious pluralism Manasseh allowed the Monotheists to believe as they wished, but granted the Polytheists their rights back, causing a new civil war of sorts in the Kingdom between the religious factions.

The Jewish King was also a loyal vassal of Assyria, helping them in their quest of conquering Egypt in 673 BC.

While hated by the compilers and editors of the Hebrew Bible, all Yahwehists who changed and edited the books to suit their own agenda, Manasseh was not a wicked man nor a bad King. On the contrary, he carried on the legacy of Uzziah, the Golden Age stronger than ever under him.

A very religious man Manasseh adopted many foreign Gods as his own, including many Assyrian deities. When the Yahwehists opposed him and his religious reforms the King wasted little time in cracking down on them. He decentralized

worship in Jerusalem, reopening local shrines throughout the country, and forbade any Monotheists from persecuting Pagans for their beliefs.

However for all his good deeds as King, a dark stain on Manasseh's record was the murder of his own grandfather. Isaiah, while open minded and Polytheistic, revered Yahweh above all other Gods and wished for his grandson to do the same, but Manasseh would not.

The elderly Prophet never stopped trying to convince him, growing so irritating to the monarch that in a heat of anger Manasseh ordered Isaiah to be sawed in half, which was duly carried out in 668 BC.

Manasseh ruled Judah until 643 BC when he passed away. His son Amon, born to his wife Meshullemeth in 663 BC, succeeding him.

Amon and Jedidah

After becoming King Amon married Jedidah, a daughter of Adaiah of Boscath, a Jewish nobleman and leader of his town. Together they had one son, Josiah, born in 641 BC.

A devout Pagan like his father, Amon funded many shrines throughout the Kingdom, drawing the ire of the Monotheists. This ire turned into conspiracy, and just a few months after his son was born Amon was murdered by Yahwehist members of Court, who then placed Josiah on the throne hoping to control him.

Josiah and Hamutal

The murderers of Amon lasted little more than a month. The common people, overwhelmingly Polytheists and Monotheists tolerant of other beliefs, rose up and took Justice into their own hands, killing them in the streets, but this did not stop the Yahwehist take over of the royal Court.

Josiah was brought up as a strict Monotheist, taught to hate Paganism and all forms of worship that went against the Yahwehist version of the Torah. So it is no surprise that when he reached the age of maturity in 626 BC, Josiah went on a purge of Polytheism, the greatest and final one in Judah's history, ending centuries of battle between the two religious factions.

Soon after beginning his purge Josiah married a woman

named Zebudah who bore him two sons:

Johanan, born 625 BC.

Eliakim, born 623 BC.

In 620 BC he married a second wife, Hamutal, a daughter of the Prophet Jeremiah, and by her had another two sons:

Shallum, born 618 BC.

Matthew, born 616 BC, who would later change his name to Zedekiah.

Josiah, remembered by the Biblical writers as a righteous and pious man, destroyed organized Polytheism and laid the foundations for what would, many centuries later, become Orthodox Judaism.

He died in the month of August, 609 BC, being gravely wounded in battle against invading Egyptian forces. Taken back to Jerusalem the King died in his bed, surrounded by his children.

Zedekiah

For much of his life Matthew lived in the shadows of his older

brothers, watching each succeed to the throne before ultimately dying.

But, in 597 BC, he was selected by Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon and Overlord of Judah (Assyria having fallen) to become the new Jewish King.

It is likely he was chosen due to the fact he was easy to control and more willing than others to do the Babylonians' bidding.

By the time he came to the throne Matthew was already a father of two daughters and three sons:

Tamar and Mulek, born 601 BC.

Teia, born 600 BC.

Malchiah, born 598 BC.

Unnamed son, born 597 BC.

Upon taking the Crown Matthew had his name changed to Zedekiah by the Babylonian monarch to show just how much power he wielded over the Jews, and for several years Zedekiah accepted this, playing his role of good subject.

But, in 589 BC, tired of living under the boot of Babylon, he rose in rebellion. A horrible mistake.

Nebuchadnezzer immediately attacked, besieging the city for

three brutal years. Jeremiah, having cautioned his grandson against doing such a thing in the first place, now thought only of how to save the House of David from extinction.

In 586 BC, Jeremiah made a bold decision. He convinced Tamar, Mulek and their sister to follow him out of Jerusalem against their father's wishes. The Prophet condemned the King as a fool for ever believing he could match the might of Babylon and quickly fled the city, God, so the Bible states, helping them escape unharmed with a few other people willing to join them.

However Zedekiah and those who remained in Jerusalem were not so fortunate. When the city fell hundreds met their deaths by the sword and thousands more were dragged back to Babylon as captives and slaves.

Among them was the King, the last King in the direct male line of descent from David to rule Judah. Zedekiah watched as Malchiah and his youngest son were murdered before his eyes.

Then the Babylonians blinded him. The last King of Judah spent his final days, held down by chains, languishing in a Babylonian prison. He died months after arriving in Babylon.

Tamar and Eochaid MacDuach

Tamar and her siblings, following their great grandfather out of harms way, traveled to Egypt with him where they found sanctuary.

In the Egyptian Kingdom they lived among the Jewish community there, one that stretched back centuries. With them, per Irish historical tradition, they carried the Lia Fail stone, the Stone of Destiny that was the very stone their ancestor Jacob so many years before used as a pillow at Bethel.

Mulek, intergrating with fishermen, soon learned of a mysterious land across the ocean, a land bountiful and large. This land, per the Book of Mormon, was North America.

The Prince became fascinated with it and, against his great grandfather's wishes, soon began preparing to sail to it with whoever would join him. Mulek eventually left Egypt, sailing to the foreign land, never to see his sisters or Jeremiah again, but he made it safely, founding the city of Zarahemla in what is today Ontario, Canada, if one believes the account in the Book of Mormon. His descendants later helped, along with surviving Nephites, to form the Mi'kmaq people of Nova Scotia.

By 585 BC Jeremiah grew concerned Babylon might attempt an invasion of Egypt. If it did, his great granddaughters would be in serious danger as the last descendants of David not under Babylonian control. They would surely be killed to stop any possible revolts from springing up in their names, so, with his scribe, Baruch, the man who helped him write the Book of Jeremiah in the Hebrew Bible today, the Prophet began discussing where to go next.

The two men ultimately settled on the West, a region far removed from Babylonian influence. The island they picked was called Eire, named after an Elven woman of long ago, and what we today call Ireland.

They set sail not long after, taking with them the Lia Fail Stone and any who wished to join them in escaping a possible invasion.

Sailing from the East they landed in Ireland in 584 BC on the coast of modern county Meath. Here they were greeted by Irish nobles inquiring as to who they were.

Jeremiah, having been able to save a few relics from Judah, showed the men the harp of King David, and the Lia Fail Stone, proving they were not common immigrants or refugees but royalty.

The nobles immediately sent messangers to the capital, Tara,

where Eochaid Mac Duach reigned as High King of the Irish. Eochaid's ancestors had ruled Ireland since the 18th century BC when his ancestor Erimon and his brothers came from Spain with an army after another brother, Ith, was killed there by, per Irish historical tradition, the Tuatha De Danaan, a race of Elves and Fairies who ruled Ireland before the coming of humankind.

Erimon was also a maternal descendant of Zerah, younger brother of Pharez, and thus a distant relative of Tamar through their shared ancestor Judah. Eochaid welcomed the Princesses and their great grandfather to the capital where he prepared a lavish feast for them.

Though the language barrier was an initial problem, Tamar and Teia picked up Irish quickly enough, as did Jeremiah and Baruch. Soon the eldest daughter of Zedekiah and the Irish King fell in love, Jeremiah arranging their marriage in 582 BC.

Teia would marry Siorna, a cousin of Eochaid's.

The Lial Fail Stone, once its history was related to the Irish King, became a prized possession and he set it up as a coronation stone for his successors, recognizing its unique and Magical meaning.

Together Tamar and Eochaid had one son, Ugaine, born in 580 BC, the same year the boy's great great grandfather passed

away. The High King and Queen laid Jeremiah to rest in a Cairn in Loughcrew which is still visible today.

Tamar and her sister lived happy lives in Ireland, enjoying the equal status women held in Celtic society. While never successfully converting her husband to Monotheism, Tamar's faith did rub off on Eochaid in other ways, Torah law coming to influence aspects of its Irish counterpart and it was on her urgings that the iconic Red Hand, a symbol of Eochaid's descent from Judah, became the symbol of Ulster, the part of Ireland Eochaid hailed from, and is still in use today as the Red Hand of Ulster.

Tamar passed away peacefully in 520 BC, predeceased by Eochaid who died in 532 and Teia in 528 BC.

Ugaine and Cessair

Ugaine was raised as a warrior by his father, the Irish people, as members of the Celtic race, descendants of Heracles through his sons Keltos, Galos, and Ibros, were a warrior culture.

In 550 BC, at thirty, Ugaine was married to the twenty year

old Cessair, daughter of a powerful Gaulish King, though which tribe exactly in Gaul (modern France) she hailed from is unknown.

With Cessair, Ugaine would father an atonishing twenty two sons and three daughters over the course of their long marriage. Their eldest was Cobthach Fion, born in 548 BC.

Unlike in more modern times, in ancient Ireland succession was not based strictly upon hereditary right, cousins and uncles could challenge for the throne, and when Eochaid died it was not Ugaine who succeeded him but a cousin, Rechtaid MacLugaid.

Rechtaid ruled two years before Ugaine, furious over the King murdering his wetnurse, Macha, for what he saw as a petty offense, slew him in combat and took the throne for himself.

Ugaine's reign was marked firstly by his decision to divide Ireland into twenty three shares, giving each of his children lands of their own to rule as monarchs. His eldest son received the Kingdom of Brega and his eldest daughter, Muirisc, was given a Kingdom named after her, Mag Muirisce.

Another distinction that set Ugaine apart from his predecessors was his desire to expand his holdings outside of Ireland. For forty years he raided Britain and continental Europe, well into his nineties. While he never succeeded in

establishing a lasting Empire as he wished, Ugaine gained a fearsome reputation in his homeland for his war lust.

He passed away in his ninety fifth year in 485 BC, continuing to rule the Irish with a firm grip until his very last breath.

Cobthach Fion

Upon their father's death Cobthach Fion and his second eldest brother Loegaire were brought before a council of Druids, the religious leaders of the Celts, to decide who would be King.

Both men had experience in war and ruling, each was up to the task, but before a decision could be made a rebel, Bodbchad, a cousin to the brothers, attacked Tara and usurped the Crown.

However he only managed to savour the taste of Kingship for a day before Cobthach Fion and Loegaire returned with warriors of their own and destroyed his army, killing the usurper on the very throne he sought to hold for many years to come.

But, as often happens where power is involved, the brothers soon started to fight against each other, with Cobthach

convinced he deserved the throne more than his younger sibling. He was so consumed by jealously he stopped eating, losing weight rapidly. In 481 BC, on advice from a Brega Druid, Cobthach sent word to his brother that he was ill and, fearing death, wanted to mend the rift between them.

Loegaire, overcome with concern for him, left Tara immediately, hoping to make it to his brother's Kingdom before it was too late. When he arrived he received the news Cobthach had passed.

The High King entered his brother's throne room where his body was laid out on a bier. Grieving, Loegaire approached the corpse and knelt down, praying to his brother's soul for forgiveness.

Suddenly Cobthach sprang up, driving a dagger he consealed in his clothes into Loegaire's neck, watching the blood pump from the wound. His brother died on the floor and Cobthach went to work shoring up his hold on the High Kingship.

He had his nephew, Loegaire's son Ailill Aine, poisoned, and he forced his great nephew, Loegaire's grandson, Labraid, to eat the flesh of his father and grandfather, and a mouse, before exiling him from Ireland forever.

Cobthach ruled Ireland for thirty years, fathering a son Meilge, in 479 BC, with an unnamed woman.

He met his death in 451 BC at the age of ninety seven when he and a band of his followers were attacked by Labraid, who returned from exile, at his home known as Dind Ríg. Trapped inside and unable to escape, the elderly High King was burnt alive by his great nephew, finally facing the consquences for the murders he committed so long before.

Melige MacCobthach

Little is known of Melige's life. A young man when his father was killed, the Prince took his revenge nineteen years later in 432 BC when he killed Labraid in single combat after challenging him.

Taking the High Kingship himself Melige fathered a son, Irero, in 430 BC. He reigned for nineteen years before he was killed by Mug Corb, the grandson of Rechtaid MacLugaid, in 413 BC.

Irero MacMelige

Irero's life of ease and power was overturned when his father was murdered and he was forced to flee Tara. But like his father he did one day return to claim his rightful in inheritance, but it was not Mug Corb whom he killed in 388 BC, but Angus MacAilill, grandson of Labraid, who killed Mug Corb himself back in 406 BC.

Irero ruled Ireland for seven years until, as you might guess, like his predecessors he was murdered while visiting Ulster by Fer Corb, son of Mug Corb, in 381 BC. His young son Connla, born in 384 BC, was whisked away to safety.

Connla MacIrero and Sabhdh

Connla lived in hiding for years until he reached manhood in 364 BC when he went to Tara and challenged Fer Corb, killing the usurper and taking the Crown of Eire for his own.

He ruled thirty years, in this time fathering a son with his wife Sabhdh, the daughter of Logha MacErimon, King of Munster, whom they named Ailill. Connla, known as Connla the Beautiful for his handsomeness, died in 334 BC of natural causes.

Ailill MacConnla

Ailill reigned for twenty five years in peace, his life being taken by Adamair, son of Fer Corb, in 309 BC.

Before his death, in 310 BC, he fathered a son, Eochaid.

Eochaid MacAilill

Like his grandfather Connla, Eochaid lived in hiding while Adamair ruled Ireland, ever fearful of being found and killed.

As a young man, in 286 BC, he attacked and killed Adamair, and took his place on the throne for seventeen years before, in battle against a rebel named Fergus MacBresal, he was killed in 269 BC.

Prior to his death he fathered two sons:

Angus, born 280 BC.

Connall, born 278 BC.

Angus MacEochaid and Magach

It took twelve years for Angus and Connall to convince the Irish nobles to support their claims to the High Kingship, not eager to wage more war. But eventually the brothers were able to convince enough to join them that they could challenge Fergus. They attacked Tara in 257 BC, defeating and killing the usurper in battle, with Angus, as the eldest, becoming High King.

He married Magach, daughter of Fergus MacBresal, the very same day he became King, forcing her to marry him.

With Magach, Angus had two sons:

Enna, born 255 BC.

Fiacha, born 252 BC.

Angus was a drunk in his later years, causing the people to nickname him Tuirbeach 'the ashamed' due to how he acted while under the influence.

He lived sixty years, dying of alcoholism in 192 BC, being succeeded by his nephew Connall.

Enna MacAngus

Enna was happy to serve his cousin Connall, his ambition for power not as great as his ancestors. He was a warrior first and foremost, content to live his life by the sword. But when his cousin was betrayed and killed by Nia Segamain, a grandson of Fer Corb in 187 BC, Enna chose the path of a rebel.

For seven years he gathered men and then struck, killing Nia in battle and ascending the throne, being crowned at Tara, with his foot on the Lia Fail Stone, as custom dictated since Eochaid Mac Duach's time.

He was Ireland's High King for twenty years. In 167 BC Enna was murdered by his cousin Crimthann MacFedilid. In the same year as his death Enna had a son, Eassamhuin, who was raised in hiding.

Eassamhuin MacEnna

Eassamhuin spent much of his life in Scotland which, if you believe traditional Scottish histories, was a full fledged Kingdom at this time in history, ruled by distant relatives of Eassamhuin.

He lived a quiet life at the Scottish Court, serving as a Courtier. He was, essentially, a Scotsman, being raised there by a wetnurse turned adopted mother since the time he was a baby.

Across the Irish sea Crimthann ruled Ireland for many decades, strengthening his rule year by year, determined to end the blood feuds and civil wars that had plagued the Irish people for generations.

In 120 BC, when Eassamhuin was forty seven, he was given an army by the King of Scotland and he sailed across the Irish sea, landing in what is today County Dublin where he met Crimathann's army.

He defeated them, forcing the High King back to Tara where again he crushed his forces, hunting the King down himself on the battlefield and driving his sword through his throat.

Eassamhuin took his place on the throne and reigned until 100 BC when he passed away at age sixty seven. His son Eochaid, succeeding him.

Eochaid MacEassamhuin and Cloithfinn

Eochaid, an inheriter of both his father's and Crimthann's progress in making Ireland a strong country, was a powerful man when he rose to the throne. Born and raised in Scotland he came to Ireland with his father when Eassamhuin conquered the Kingdom, proving his worth in battle.

As High King he married Cloithfinn, daughter of Eochaid MacUlcheataigh, a highly renowned blacksmith from a prosperous blacksmithing family, and with her had a large family, six daughters and four sons in all:

Derbriu, born 99 BC.

Elie, born 98 BC.

Mugain, born 97 BC.

Clothru, born 96 BC.

Eithne, born 95 BC.

Maeve, born 94 BC.

Bres, Nar, and Lothar, born 92 BC.

Connall, born 90 BC.

All of Eochaid's children would play important roles in Ireland's future and one, Derbriu, is said to have been a lover of Aengus MacDagda, an Elven man of the Tuatha De Danaan.

Four of the High King's daughters married Connor MacNessa, King of Ulster, forming an alliance with the Northern Irish tribes that was meant to help keep his family on the throne.

This marriage, however, turned out to be a disaster. Maeve, jealous of Eithne, drowned her but her unborn child, later to be named Furbaide, was saved via a caesarion section performed on her body. This jealously soon targeted her other sisters but thankfully she did not manage to kill them.

Maeve, unhappy in Ulster, divorced Connor and was made Queen of Connacht by her father, a Kingdom roughly matching the province of Connaught.

Shortly after this Eochaid called a council of all the Kings and Clan Chiefs in Ireland, and they met at Tara. While here Maeve went down to the river Boyne to wash. Connor, still resentful of their divorce and lusting after her, followed, forcing himself upon her and raping her.

When Eochaid learned of this he marshalled his troops for war, invading Ulster with his sons but Connor was the better General, defeating the King and expelling the Southerners out of the North.

Eochaid never recovered from this. In 30 BC, the elderly King faced rebellion by his three sons. Before battle Clothru approached her brothers, pointing out none of them had children and, should they die, their direct line would die with them.

Her solution? To sleep with them all that night, and by one she became pregnant. The next day at the Druimm Criaich all three brothers fell as Clothru feared, but Eochaid survived, claiming a hollow victory.

The High King died a few months later at the age of one hundred and five.

Lugaid the Red Striped and Derbforgaill

Born in 29 BC, a year after the Battle of Druimm Criaich and the death of his father (whomever he was among the triplets) Lugaid did not show any signs of genetic deformity due to incest as one might expect, a rare lucky case.

He was raised by the great Irish warrior Cuchulainn as his own son, taught the ways of warfare by the very best the Irish people had to offer.

As a young man he married a Norse woman known only by the Irish translation of her name, Derbforgaill, in 12 BC, and with her had one son, Crimthann, in 11 BC.

Known as 'the red striped' due to having red stripes as birthmarks on his neck and waist, Lugaid was a great warrior. He became High King of Ireland after the death of his cousin Conaire in the same year as his marriage.

Lugaid ruled until 9 BC when he fell in battle against the Laigin tribe, the very same people who killed Conaire.

Crimthann MacLugaid and Naira

Crimthann came to the throne in 15 AD after overthrowing Connor MacFind. Prior to coming to the throne Crimthann is said to have married an Elven woman named Naira with whom he went on a voyage to a distant land whose name is unrecorded.

He brought back much wealth with him along with a son Naira gave him named Feradach (born in 13 BC).

Crimthann ruled for sixteen years, dying after falling from his horse in 31 AD.

Feradach MacCrimthann and Mara

Feradach was known for his fairness and knowledge in the traditional Irish Polytheistic religion. Thanks to his mother he had access to the Tuatha De Danaan and through this connection he married Mara, daughter of an Elven man named Laoch, in 34 AD.

Feradach reigned twenty years, bringing stability, Justice, and fertile fields to the Irish people. He died in 51 AD. Before his death, in 35 AD, his wife gave birth to their only child, a son named Fíachu.

Fiachu MacFeradach and Eithne

Fiachu, unlike his father, was not a good ruler. He cared little for the people or the Kingdoms under his rule, focusing on his own pleasures.

He married Eithne, daughter of Corbred I of Scotland, in the

year he rose to the High Kingship. By 52 AD she was pregnant with his child. Fiachu did not, however, get to see the birth of this baby as the common people, led by a prominent farmer named Elim mac Conrach, rose up in revolt against his unjust rule.

Fiachu and the regional Kings led their armies against the peasants but they were overcome and slaughtered, all falling in battle. Elim marched on Tara next, Eithne and other noblewomen fleeing to safety. The Scottish Princess returned home where, a few months later, she gave birth to a baby boy she named Tuathal.

Tuathal and Baine

Tuathal grew up in a Scotland only lately come under Roman dominance as the Roman Empire had invaded Britain in 43 AD, proceeding to conquer the Island after a fierce struggle with the British King Caradoc.

During his childhood and teenage years Tuathal came into contact with Roman soldiers and politicians. It is unknown whether Tuathal's grandfather or his uncles Dardan and Corbred II, both Kings after their father, had always intended

to help him regain the Irish throne, but whatever the case by 79 AD Tuathal was in contact with the Roman Governor of Britain, Gnaeus Julius Agricola.

With Agricola the Irish Prince discussed Ireland and how Rome could benefit from helping the young man regain his family's throne. All this discussion culminated in the Governor supplying Tuathal with a legion of men numbering five thousand strong in 81 AD and with them the Prince and the Romans sailed to Ireland.

Once he landed on the Irish coast they marched on Tara, meeting Elim in battle outside the capital on the Hill of Achall where Elim was killed and Tuathal ascended the throne. But the war was far from over as others in Ireland were not about to let the power they gained be stripped away.

For the first year of his reign Tuathal led his mixed army of Irish and Roman soldiers in campaigns against the Ligmuini, Gailion, Fir Bolg, Fir Domnann, the Ulaid, the Muma, the Fir Ol nEchmacht, and the Erainn tribes, bringing those who rejected his rulership into submission.

Once the wars were finished Tuathal assembled the Irish nobility on the Hill of Tara where he made them swear loyalty to him and his descendants.

Shortly after this ceremony the High King married his cousin

Baine, the daughter of another uncle, Galdus, known to the Romans as Calgacus.

With Baine Tuathal had one son and two daughters:

Fedelm, born 83 BC.

Fedlimid, born 84 BC.

Dairne, born 86 BC.

Fithir, born 88 BC.

Tuathal spent considerable time building up fortresses across Ireland to reinforce his rule on the island. Later in his rule he went to war against the Kingdoms of Leinster for shaming his daughter Dairne who married its King, Eochaid Ainchenn, who disrespected her by wishing to marry Fithir, not being happy with her.

Tuathal burned Ainchenn's stronghold of Aillen to the ground, destroying the regional King's power and forcing him to pay a heavy tribute in cattle in exchange for peace.

After a successful reign Tuathal died the way he lived in 106 AD when he was killed at the Battle of Mag Line against the King of Ulster, Mal MacRochride, who rebelled in the hopes of winning the High Kingship.

Fedlimid MacTuathal and Unna Hothersdottir

Fedlimid was able to muster supporters to his cause soon after his father's death and killed Mal MacRochride in combat in 110 AD.

Soon after becoming High King he married Unna, a daughter of Hother, King of Denmark, and, according to Danish tradition, a descendant of Odin and his wife Frigga through their son Hodr.

With Unna, Fedlimid had three sons:

Conn, born 112.

Eochaid, born 113.

Fiacha, born 115.

Fedlimid reigned until 119 when he died in his bed, most likely by poison. He was succeeded by Cathair MacFeidhlimidh, yet another usurper.

Conn MacFedlimid and Eithne

Like his father before him Conn led a rebellion against the usurper in 123, killing Cathair in battle outside Tara. Once he assumed the High Kingship Conn married the usurper's daughter Eithne and with her had three children:

Maoin, born 124.

Art, born 125.

Connla, born 126.

Saraid, born 127.

In later Irish tradition Conn was known as Conn of the Hundred Battles as he fought many campaigns during his reign against rebels, including his own son in law Mug Neit who married his daughter Maoin in 140, defeating him after two battles.

Mug fled Ireland for the Roman province of Hispania where for ten years he waited, marrying a daughter of a Spanish noble. In 150 AD he returned at the head of an army, landing near Bantry Bay.

He brought Conn to battle and defeated him, forcing the High King to divide the island between them with Mug ruling southern Ireland and Conn ruling Ulster.

Fifteen years of peace followed but Mug, greedy for more

power, broke it in 165 AD, marching to war once again, but this time Conn prevailed, killing his son in law in a surprise night attack on his camp.

Once again High King of all of Ireland, Conn ruled well. In 166 his wife passed away and a year later an Elven woman named Becuille came to Tara, having been banished from her own people.

While falling in love with Art, the woman agreed to marry the High King if he would in turn banish his son from the capital for a year. Accustomed to the ways of the Fair Folk (his other son, Connla, having married an Elven woman years before and entering the Otherworld with her), Conn complied.

For his part Art held no ill will towards his father obeyed his order.

On October 20th, 167, Conn was assassinated by an assassin sent by Tipraiti MacMal, a son of Mal Rochride, while in his palace. He is remembered to this day as one of Ireland's greatest Kings and warriors.

Saraid ingen Conn and Conaire MacMug

Saraid married Conaire in 140 as her sister married Mug, and with him she had three sons:

Musc, born 141.

Baschaín, born 143.

Riata, born 144.

Saraid became High Queen upon the death of her father in 167 and ruled with her husband for seven years until his death in battle against Nemed MacSroibcenn.

Saraid survived Conaire for several decades, passing away in 200.

Riata MacConaire and Morgan verch Owain

Riata was given lands in the modern day Irish counties of Antrim and Derry and named his Kingdom Dalriada after himself.

He married Morgan verch Owain (Morgan the daughter of Owain, verch meaning 'daughter of' in Welsh), a British noblewoman, in 165 and with her had one son:

Fiacha, born 168.

Riata lived until 250 when he passed away. Morgan's death date is not known.

Fiacha MacRiata

Fiacha became King of Dalriada after his father's death but reigned only two years before he himself passed away from unknown causes.

Before his death, in 203, he had one son with an unnamed woman whom he named Eochaid.

Eochaid MacFiacha

Eochaid took the Kingship in 253 and ruled until his own death in 272. Prior to his death he fathered one son, Archir, in 231.

Archir MacEochaid

Like his father and grandfather it is unknown whom Archir married, but before he rose to the throne of Dalriada he had one son, Finn, born 249.

He passed away in 294.

Finn MacArchir

With Finn we get as much information we received about his predecessors. The simple reason is that Dalriada wasn't an important Kingdom in Ireland at this time and her rulers, while no doubt held in high esteem by many of their people, weren't grand players on Ireland's national scene.

Finn would father two sons:

Cruitlinde, born in 260.

Romaich, born 263.

Finn passed away in 303.

Cruitlinde MacFinn

Cruitlinde reigned over the people of Dalriada from 303 to his death in 317. In 300 he fathered a son, Senchormac.

Senchormac mac Cruithluithe

Senchormac reigned as King from 317 until his demise in 338. He fathered a son, Fedelmid, in 318.

Fedelmid MacSenchormac

Fedelmid reigned from 338 to his death in 360. He fathered a son in 318 whom he named Angus.

Angus MacFedelmid and Foghan verch Owain

With Angus we get a tiny bit more information than we did with his ancestors since they took the Dalriadan throne. In 338 he married a British noblewoman named Foghan verch Owain, though who her parents were or where in Britain she came from is unknown.

With Foghan, Angus became the father of Fedelmid in 340.

Angus also held the distinction of being the first Chirstian King of Dalriada, being baptized in the last years of his reign. He passed away in 400.

Fedelmid MacAngus

Fedelmid, known as Fedelmid the Fortunate for unknown reasons, reigned from 400 to his death in 405. Before he died he fathered a son, Eochaid, in 380.

Eochaid MacFedelmid and Erca

Known as the 'Horseman of the Heavens' due to his superb horse riding skill, Eochaid became King of Dalriada when his father passed away.

In the same year he married Erca, daughter of Loarn, a Dalriadan nobleman of whom nothing is known besides his name.

Together the couple had two sons, Erc, in 406, and Loarn, in 410.

Eochaid ruled until his death in 439. Erca lived much longer, passing away in 480.

Erc MacEochaid and Mista

Erc married Mista, a granddaughter of High King Niall MacEochaid, known as Niall of the Nine Hostages, and daughter of Prince Eoghan MacNiall, in 425 and with her had three sons:

Loarn, born 426.

Fergus, born 427.

Angus, born 429.

Known as Erc the Vailant, he was a renowned warrior though, sadly, what battles he fought in are unknown. He reigned until 474 when he died. Mista's death date is unknown.

Fergus MacErc and Nessa

Though not the eldest son, Fergus was the most prominent among his brothers and, through strength of character and will, he forged alliances with other Irish Kingdoms in his plans of conquest.

His goal? The Kingdom of Scotland, as the traditional Scottish histories maintain. In 498 he and his brothers launched an invasion. Britain at this time was ruled by Uther Pendragon, the legendary King and father of King Arthur, but, preoccupied with the threats of Germanic invasion himself, Uther offered little help to the Scots.

Fergus and his brothers took the Kingdom by 501, with Fergus becoming King, making peace with Uther soon thereafter, swearing loyalty to the House of Pendragon.

With his wife Nessa, daughter of Grem, King of the Picts, a people of Scotland originally of Iranian-Israelite origin, whom

he married in 440, Fergus was the father of a son, Domangart, who, along with Domangart's sons Connall and Gabran, was with him during the invasion of Scotland.

Fergus, called the Great by his people, ruled Scotland and Dalriada until his death in 506. He was the first in a long line of Scottish Kings who would be buried on the Sacred Isle of Iona.

Domangart MacFergus and Feldea

Through his mother Domangart was a direct descendant of Fergus I, the first King of Scotland as well as Brutus of Troy, the first High King of Britain according to ancient British accounts such as the History of the Kings of Britain. This descent made him a distant cousin to the Pendragons, also descendants of Brutus.

Prior to coming to power he married Feldea ingen Brion, daughter of Brion MacEochaid, a brother of Niall MacEochaid and King of Connacht, in 463.

With Feldea he was the father of two sons:

Connall, born 464.

Gabran, born 465.

Domangart ruled Scotland and Dalriada until 509 when he passed away.

Gabran MacDomangart and Lluan verch Brychan

Gabran's older brother succeeded to the throne for a few months but died under mysterious circumstances so he was called to the throne.

By the time he became King of Scotland he had already married Lluan, the daughter of Brychan, Lord of Brycheiniog, a descendant of British Kings.

Gabran's reign saw the rise of Arthur Pendragon, the great King who, according to British records and legend, saved Britain from conquest and established a vast Empire across much of Europe, Asia, parts of Africa and even North America. Whether one believes this or not, Gabran did play a role in Arthur's reign, fighting alongside him against the Germanic invaders, dying in the Battle of Badon Hill in 515 AD.

Before his death Gabran and Lluan had several children:

Domangart, born 498.

Urian, born 499.

Aidan, 500.

Aidan MacGabran and Igraine de Acqs

Aidan did not come to the throne for sometime after his father's death, but like his father he fought alongside Arthur Pendragon in his wars.

He became King of Scotland in the 560s after his brother Domangart's death. By this time he was a father of three sons and one daughter by his wife Igraine de Acps.

Igraine, named after Arthur Pendragon's mother, was from the noble House of de Acps, a noble family that claimed descent from Vivianne, Fairy Queen of Avalon, as well as descent from the Kings of Troy. They married in 550, their children were as follows:

Arthur, born 551.

Domangart, born 552

Bran, born 553.

Maithgamma, born 554.

Eochaid, born 560.

Aidan's life's work was serving the Pendragon Kings and helping keep their Empire intact. In 587 Aidan and his eldest son fought with Constantine Pendragon, the nephew and heir of Arthur, to expel a combined Saxon, Gaullish, and Pictish invasion. In this war Arthur and Bran MacAidan fell and the Scottish King lost heart, retreating back to his stronghold of Duneadd.

Luckily Constantine was able to win the war and save the Empire, but Aidan was never the same. Despite this heartbreak he continued to rule, living until 608 when he died at the advanced age of one hundred and eight. He, like his father, brother, grandfather and sons, was buried on Iona.

Eochaid MacAidan and Anna Pendragon

Eochaid, like his father, served the House of Pendragon faithfully upon his ascesion to the throne in 608.

Before he came to the throne, in 570, Eochaid married Anna, a daughter of Kyden Pendragon, the seventh child of Arthur and

Guinevere.

By Anna, Eochaid had three sons:

Donald, born 572.

Connall, born 574.

Fergus, born 576.

Eochaid fought in China with Constantine II Pendragon in 617 as the British King helped Li Yuan, Duke of Tang and personal friend, become the Emperor of China.

Eochaid passed away in 630.

Donald the Freckled and Anastasia of Khazaria

Through his mother's connections to the House of Pendragon Donald had a close relationship with Constantine and his wife Maria, daughter of Maurice, the Viceroy of the Eastern Roman Empire under the Pendragons, and his wife Constantina, an Iranian Princess of half Khazar descent.

It was through Constantina's Khazar relatives that Donald met his wife, Anastasia in 614, who was the daughter of Tong, a Khazar Chieftain who would become Khan of the Khazars in

618.

The Khazars were a nomadic people from Central Asia related to the peoples of the Mongolian steppes, but Anastasia adopted to westernized living easily enough, so much so in fact that her original name has been lost to time.

With Anastasia, Donald had three sons:

Domangart, born 615.

Garnait, born 617.

Cathusach, born 618.

Donald spent the 630s fighting alongside Maelgwyn Pendragon, the eldest son and successor of Constantine, in his wars of conquest, helping him conquer what is today Afghanistan, parts of Henan province in China, and India.

Donald died in 641 while helping Maelgwyn put down a revolt in Egypt, killed in battle.

Domangart MacDonald and Shi Ling

Domangart joined his father in Maelgwyn Pendragon's military conquests and it was due to this service that the

British High King arranged for him to marry Shi Ling, daughter of Shi Siming, a Chinese General and ally who helped the Pendragons carve out the Empire of Yan, a vassal State in Henan province, for Maelgwyn's friend An Lushan, in 637.

With Shi Ling, Domangart had one son, Eochaid, born in 640 while his father was away on campaign.

Domangart was killed by a Saxon in Northern Loegria (what is today England) in 673 while visiting relatives, for unknown reasons.

Eochaid MacDomangart and Theodora Pendragon

Eochaid did not suceed his father upon his murder but was rather forced from Scotland by distant cousins, descendants of Gabran's older brother Connall. He and his wife, Theodora Pendragon, daughter of Michael Pendragon, Second Duke of Italy and granddaughter of Gregorios Pendragon, the first Duke and adopted son of Arthur's daughter Melora and her Greek husband Orlando, fled to Loegria where they found refuge.

Here Eochaid watched the Empire Arthur built collapse in 683

with rebellions springing up all over and invasions rocking Britain.

Scotland, Loegria, and Wales fell into chaos, each country divided into various Kingdoms. By the grace of the Gods or by sheer luck Eochaid and Theodora survived this bloodshed and, in 697, he clawed his way back into the North and took the throne of Dalriada, as the slice of Scotland that the ethnic Scots controlled was called.

Eochaid ruled only for a few brief months before he was cut down by a cousin, Fiannamail ua Dunchado, who assumed the Kingship.

Before his death Eochaid and Theodora had one son, Eochaid, born in 665.

Eochaid MacEchdach and Elfreda of Mercia

Eochaid MacEchdach survived the killing of his father and would, like many nobles of Dalriada, struggle for power over decades. In 720 the Prince married Elfreda of Mercia, daughter of King Ethelbald, forging an alliance between himself and the English King.

This move would ultimately help Eochaid secure the throne of Dalriada 726 as he took it with Mercian backing, defeating the previous King Dungal MacSelbaig in battle, driving him into exile.

By this time he was a father to a young son by Elfreda, Aed, born in 722. In 727 Dungal and his father, Selbach, attempted to regain Dalriadan throne at the Battle of Irros Foichnae, but faced defeat again, all but securing Eochaid's hold on power.

He held the Crown until his death in 733 from natural causes. Before he died he and Elfreda had another son, Fergus, in 728.

Aed MacEchdach

As a young boy at the time of his father's death Aed was passed over in succession in favor of a cousin, Muiredach MacAinbcellaig who reigned until 736 until he was killed in battle against the Picts and Dalriada was forced into vassalage.

The Pictish King, Angus, became the effective King of the Scots and did everything in his power to subjugate them, wishing to force them into adopting Pictish ways.

Aed grew up under this harsh rule, and while many nobles sought to find favor in the Pictish King's court, he stayed true to his Gaelic heritage.

In 768 Aed led a rebellion against the Picts, freeing the Scots from their overlordship at the Battle of Fortriu against the Pictish King Kenneth I and establishing himself as King of an independent Dalriada.

Aed had a son in 770 named Eochaid with an unnamed mistress. He died in 778.

Eochaid MacAed and Unuisticc ingen Constantine

Like his father Eochaid was too young to ascend to the throne and so his uncle Fergus was named King, raising him as his own son.

However Fergus did not survive long on the throne, dying in 781 after a revolt led by a peasant named Donncoirce.

This Donncoirce ruled as King for ten years, keeping Eochaid alive for reasons only known to himself. He arranged the Prince's marriage to Unuisticc, Princess of the Picts and daughter of Constantine, King of the Picts and grandson of

Angus MacFergus, the greatest Pictish King in living memory, who nearly succeeded in reuniting Scotland under his rule.

Eochaid and Unuisticc married in 788 and by 789 she gave birth to their only child, Alpin.

When Donncoirce died in 791 he made Eochaid his heir, having no sons of his own.

Eochaid ruled until 800 when he passed away.

Alpin MacEchdach

Alpin succeeded to the throne of Dalriada in 808 and married a cousin, a granddaughter of Constantine MacFergus, in 809, her name has not come down to us.

Together with her he had several children:

Kenneth, born 810.

Donald, born 811.

Gregor, born 813.

An unnamed daughter, born in 815.

Alpin reigned until 833 when he, in an attempt to stave off

Pictish dominace, died in battle in Galloway against the Pictish King Angus II who, to add insult to injury, decapitated Alpin's corpse and stuck his head on a pike to parade in Dalriada.

Kenneth MacAlpin

Kenneth and Donald were at the battle in Galloway where their father was killed, and the memory of his impaled head stayed with them.

Riding back to Dalriada Kenneth tried to rally the men there but it was no use, they submitted to Pictish dominance once more and the children of Alpin were forced into hiding.

At about this same time Viking raids were becoming increasingly common, especially against the Picts. They ravaged their country two years, Kenneth watching all the while.

In 835 he made an alliance with an Irish Chieftain named Godred MacFergus, leader of the Airgialla tribe in the North of Ireland. The reason he chose MacFergus over any other Chief was due to the fact that Godred, while Irish born, was not wholly Irish blood. His mother was a Danish woman who had

come to Ireland in 810 with the sons of Ragnar Lothbrok and married Fergus, Godred's father.

Godred commanded a host comprised of both native Irish and Norse-Gaels, those of mixed Irish and Scandinavian ancestry, the first generation of this unique ethnic group. These fighters, hardended by the Germanic ethos of war, was the reason why Kenneth wanted Godred as an ally, having seen the carnage Viking warriors did to the Picts in the past.

In return for his help in regaining the Dalriadan throne Kenneth promised the Chieftain his sister's hand in marriage and a grant of land after he became King. Godred happily agreed.

For years the two campaigned against the Picts, destroying dozens of villages, defeating their armies, until in 840 Kenneth was able to become King of Dalriada.

Eight years later, after many more bloody campaigns, he succeeded in conquering the Picts and Britons, reuniting Scotland as one country. Keeping his word Kenneth gave Godred the western Scottish Isles as his own Kingdom.

While fighting these wars Kenneth fathered a son, Aidan, with an Elven woman who went on to become a renowned warrior, but not King.

But before this half Elven son wa born, Kenneth fathered four

children with his wife, Rowan verch Dumnagual, Princess of Strathclyde, two sons and two daughters:

Constantine, born 836.

Aodh, born 842.

Mael Muire, born 844.

An unnamed daughter, 846.

Kenneth reigned as King of Scotland until his death on February 11th, 858 from cancer.

Constantine MacKenneth

Constantine became King in 862 after his uncle Donald's death. The first serious event in his reign was the Viking invasion of England in 864 led by Ivar the Boneless and his brothers. They ravaged the English Kingdoms and attacked Scotland several times, Constantine succeeding in beating back their attempts at conquest several times.

Ivar, King of Denmark and Dublin, desired to add Scotland to his vast realm, invading again 870, lying siege to the city of Dunbarton and succeeding in capturing it, taking thousands of

people captive to sell as slaves back in Ireland.

Still, while Dunbarton was lost the war was not. Constantine remained steadfast in defense of Scotland and the threat of conquest by the Boneless one ended in 873 when Ivar passed away.

In 875 a large Norse party landed on the Scottish coast, raiding deep into the country, killing large numbers of people at the Battle of Atholl, and looting much treasure, Constantine powerless to stop them.

In 877 Constantine, while leading yet another army against Vikings in Fife, was captured and beheaded.

Prior to his death Constantine fathered a son, Donald with an unnamed woman in 862.

Donald MacConstantine and Sigarda Sigurdssdottir

A young boy of fifteen at the time of his father's death Donald was passed over for the Kingship, which was given to his uncle Aodh. But a year later Aodh was killed in battle by Gregory MacDonald, the only son of Donald MacAlpin, who desired the throne for himself.

The young Prince, along with his cousins Doir and Constantine, was whisked away to Ireland in the aftermath of his father's death to escape any assassination attempts by Gregory to secure his hold on the Scottish throne.

Luckily there was no attempts on their lives and the three lived peacefully in Ireland until 889 when Donald, desiring his rightful inheritance, sailed back across the Irish sea, Doir and Constantine with him, to confront Gregory with an army of native Irish and Norse-Gaels.

They besieged the usurper in his fortress of Dundurn in Perthshire and here they killed him, but his son Constantine escaped into the Highlands where he established his own family.

Upon becoming King Donald secured an alliance with Sigurd Eysteinsson, Jarl of Orkney, marrying his daughter Sigarda in 890.

By Sigarda, Donald became the father of Malcolm, born seven years later in 897.

Donald II died in April of 900 while defending the Castle of Dunnottar from Viking raiders.

Malcolm MacDonald

A child when his father died Malcolm was raised in the Court of his cousin Constantine MacAeda. Little is known of his life before he became King in 943 after his cousin abdicated and became a monk, and even afterwards the records of his reign are sparse.

His first major decision as King came a few years after he became King of Scots when he led an invasion of Northern England, taking dozens of English people as captives, stealing cattle, and destroying much property.

In 945 Malcolm helped Edmund I, King of England, ravage the lands of Cumbria and Strathclyde, being rewarded with the English King's recognition of his rights to them.

In 954 a rebellion broke out in the Highlands led by the descendants of Gregory. Malcolm mustered his forces and rode to battle, but like his father and grandfather he was never to return, dying in combat.

Before his demise he had two sons, Duff, born in 920, and Kenneth, born 922.

Kenneth MacMalcolm

Kenneth's rise to the throne was a slow one. As the second youngest son of Malcolm he needed to wait until his elder brother and then cousins died.

So he did, biding his time and serving loyally until 971 when the Scottish nobles finally chose him to become King.

In 973 Kenneth went to England to acknowledge the overlordship of Edgar of England along with several other Kings in Britain.

In 977, briefly, Kenneth was ousted from the throne by Olaf, a great grandson of Constantine MacAeda, but soon returned to power after killing Olaf in battle.

In 995, Kenneth was called to the village of Fettercairn by Lady Finella of Moray, daughter of Earl Cuncar, for a visit. The King, trusting the Lady, came unattended and entered her cottage expecting to find a good meal inside.

Instead what he found was a statue of a boy staring directly at him, arrows fired from all directions, activated by the opening of the door.

Kenneth was struck multiple times, dying soon after he fell to the cold earth. Finella would later committ suicide by leaping

off a cliff into the sea.

Her reason for assassinating the King? He unknowingly killed her only son in battle a year before, leaving the Lady of Moray unconsolable.

Prior to his assassination Kenneth had several children with an unnamed woman:

Malcolm, born 954.

Boite, born 955.

Dungal, born 958.

Suibne, born 960.

Malcolm MacKenneth

In 1005 Malcolm became King after killing his cousin Kenneth MacDuff in battle on March 25th.

A few days after his coronation Norse raiders invaded the Kingdom, forcing the King back into the saddle. Malcolm succeeded in repelling the invaders, earning the trust of his people.

In 1006 the King led a raid on the North of England, lying siege to the city of Durham but, thanks to Uhtred, the son of Waltheof, Earl of Northumbria, the Scots were decisively defeated and Malcolm forced to make a hasty retreat back home.

The next war between the Scots and the English was in 1016 when Malcolm again led his forces into England and ravaged the Northern country, winning the Battle of Carham against Uhtred, now Earl of Northumbria in his own right.

This defeat was so devestating that Eadwulf, Uhtred's younger brother, gave Malcolm Northumbrian lands in Scotland without his permission to stave off future attacks, lands Malcolm made sure to hold onto.

Malcolm had no sons, but several daughters, including the eldest Bethoc, who married Crinan, Thane of the Isles, Abbot of Dunkeld Abbey, and Archpriest of the Sacred Kindred of Saint Columba. He was descended from the Kings of the Irish Kingdom of Tir Connail and was a high ranking member of the Celtic Church, a rival organization to the Roman Church.

Malcolm's other daughters, Olith and Donada, married Sigurd the Stout, Jarl of Orkney, and Findlaech, Earl of Moray, respectively. All three sisters would produce children who, in their lifetimes, would change Scotland forever.

Malcolm MacKenneth died on 25th November 1034, dying, as his ancestors had, in battle, this time against common bandits who thought they might get lucky. They perished, but so did the King.

Bethoc ingen Malcolm and Crinan MacDuncan

Bethoc's son Duncan, born 1001, was chosen by his grandfather to be his heir in the months prior to his murder at the hands of the bandits, causing outrage amongst the Scottish nobility who believed they, not the King, should choose the next Scottish King as was custom.

Malcolm, wanting to secure his line's hold on the throne, ignored their outcries, choosing Duncan as his undisputable heir. Many nobles, including Banquo, Thane of Lochaber and cousin to the royal family, supported this choice. While others, led by Macbeth, Earl of Moray and another grandson of Malcolm, opposed it.

But in the end Duncan was Crowned King of Scotland, his mother, father, and younger brother Maldred by his side at

Scone during the coronation.

Like so many women before and after her Bethoc's life is barely documented, but we do know she and her sons enjoyed a close relationship. It was through her and Crinan's efforts that Duncan married Sibyl, a Northumbrian noblewoman and daughter of Bjorn Ulfsson, a Danish nobleman and grandson of Sweyn Forkbeard, King of Denmark and conqueror of England.

By Sibyl Duncan had two sons, Malcolm, born 1031, and Donald, born 1032.

The resentments and hatreds created by Duncan's appointment as heir finally boiled over on the night of 14th of August, 1040 at Glamis Castle, the very same castle where Malcolm MacKenneth met his own death, Duncan and his wife were brutally murdered in their beds by Macbeth and his wife, Gruoch, with daggers, their blood staining the sheets a crimson red.

The young Princes were saved by loyal servants to took them to their grandparents at Dunkeld while Macbeth was proclaimed King of Scotland.

Crinan and Maldred attempted to regain the throne for Malcolm and Donald in 1045, gathering support from the Clans of the Highlands and Isles, meeting Macbeth in batle at

Dunkeld, where father and son fell.

With the deaths of their grandfather and uncle it was decided by Bethoc that the brothers would be safest if they split up. Donald was sent to Ireland while Malcolm was sent to England to live with his uncle Sigurd, Jarl of Northumbria, the elder brother of his mother.

What became of Bethoc after this is unknown, she disappears from the historical record entirely, most likely dying of a broken heart.

Donald MacDuncan and Hextilda fitzAndrew

Donald spent seventeen years of his life in Ireland living among the Kings and Princes of that country, becoming immersed in Celtic culture, while his brother was being immersed in English culture, two contrasts that would cause friction in later years.

In 1058 Donald's uncle Sigurd led an army into Scotland, killing Macbeth in battle and placing Malcolm upon the Scottish throne.

The young Prince, twenty five now and married to Hextilda

FitzAndrew, a daughter of Andrew Hemmingsson, a French nobleman of Norse ancestry and grandson of Haakon the Good, the first Christian King of Norway, returned to Scotland, though he and Malcolm, raised differently, were never close.

In 1060 Hextilda gave birth to their only child, a daughter Donald named Bethoc after his beloved grandmother. The family remained in Scotland throughout Malcolm's reign but little is known of their activities.

In 1093 Malcolm was killed at the Battle of Alnwick Castle and Donald, seeing his chance, seized the Kingship away from Edgar, Malcolm's second eldest son and heir (his eldest, Edward, having died alongside him at Alnwick), invading Scotland with a host of Irish warriors and snatched the Crown.

Once King he expelled the Englishmen who had come to Scotland with his brother, including his nephews who were taken to England by their maternal uncle, Edward.

In 1094 Duncan, another son of Malcolm, invaded Scotland on behalf of his half brothers (he being the son of his father's first marriage) and managed to outs Donald from the throne, placing Edmund, his brother, upon it....at least for a time. Donald soon killed Duncan and exiled Edmund.

A few months later another nephew, Edgar, invaded Scotland with the help of William II of England, and this time there was

no hope for Donald. Defeated in battle and captured, Edgar blinded his uncle and thrown into prison.

Here, in a dark, cold cell, Donald spent his final days, slipping away in the early hours of March 10th, 1094.

His daughter Bethoc married Lord Uhtred of Tyndale and their daughter, Hextilda, married Richard Comyn, Justicar of Scotland. From Donald thousands of Scots and those of Scottish descent descend, including the author, via the many Clans his descendants both founded and intermarried with including Clan Davidson, Cummings, Clan MacNeil and others, ensuring the House of David's legacy is truly global.